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THE NEWSPAPER FOR MAIDSTONE, MALLING, LARKFIELD AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

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Issue No 138

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May 19, 2010

## HEALTH & BEAUTY

Tips and treatments to help you look good and feel even better – See inside



# SEX ATTACK LEAVES CLUBBERS TERRIFIED

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### ALSO INSIDE

**SCHOOLS** ..... PAGE 12  
**LETTERS** ..... PAGE 14  
**PROPERTY** ..... PAGES 33-41  
**JOB** ..... PAGES 42-44  
**SPORT** ..... PAGES 46-47

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## LIFT-OFF FOR FOSTERERS

Foster carers launched 120 colourful balloons to mark the start of a national week in honour of their work.

The parents watched the bio-degradable balloons fly away from the steps outside County Hall, in Maidstone, on Monday, May 17, to celebrate Foster Care Fortnight.

The group, which make up some of Kent County Council's 700 registered foster carers, took the opportunity to share the benefits of looking after children and teenagers with shoppers. KCC chiefs hope the initiative will help recruit more volunteers.

Residents who are interested in fostering a child should visit [www.kent.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.kent.gov.uk/fostering) or call 0845 330 2968.

■ BY ANNA WHITE

MAIDSTONE'S thriving town centre clubbing scene has been rocked by claims that a terrified woman was sexually assaulted.

The 28-year-old said she was attacked in a narrow unlit alleyway behind the R Bar and The Loft nightclub, off Gabriel's Hill, shortly before midnight on Thursday, May 13.

Three men have been arrested in connection with the incident. The suspects – aged 20, 24 and 26 – were taken in for questioning on the morning of Friday, 14. They have been released on bail until June 30, while they continue to "assist" police with their inquiries.

Clubbers said the incident, along with a year-on-year rise in the number of serious sexual offences carried out in Mid Kent, had led them to think twice before walking home alone late at night.

One reveller, who did not wish to be identified, said: "It's scary to think something like this could happen so close to busy clubs and pubs. I think from now on I'll make sure I get a taxi home if I'm on my own, even though I only live ten minutes walk from the middle of town."

Bosses at indie-themed nightclub R Bar said the nightspot was open for business on the same night as the reported offence, but insist their staff did not see anything suspicious and understood the matter was being dealt with by police.

The most recent Mid Kent crime figures show instances of the most serious sexual offences increased by 14 cases in 2009.

Between January and December of last year, 167 serious sexual offences were reported. In

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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## INSIDE THIS WEEK

**NEWS**..... PAGES 4-11    **PROPERTY** ... PAGES 33-41  
**Q&A** ..... PAGE 8    **JOBS**..... PAGES 42-44  
**SCHOOLS** ..... PAGE 12    **CLASSIFIED**..... PAGE 45  
**LETTERS**..... PAGES 14-15    **SPORT** ..... PAGES 46-47

## INSIDE your lifestyle

**your lifestyle**

**Robin is nothing to Crowe about**  
 New Ridley Scott film misses the target in recreating legendary hero  
 SEE CINEMA

**PAGES 18-20 LEISURE**  
**PAGE 22 STYLE**  
**PAGE 24 MUSIC/TRAVEL**  
**PAGE 26 WEATHER**  
**PAGE 27 COMPETITION**  
**PAGES 23-25 MOTORING**

SEE INSIDE FOR NEW AND USED CARS PLUS THE LATEST MOTORING NEWS  
**carsforrent.co.uk**

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**CUTTED:** Fire damage at Homebase in Quarry Wood, which has left residents fearing new attacks

# Fears suspected bomb and arson attack are linked

■ BY ANNA WHITE

**CONCERNED** residents fear an arsonist could be targeting a nearby industrial park following a series of suspicious incidents.

Homeowners in Aylesford are becoming more anxious about their safety after they saw the Army swoop on a suspected bomb found in Quarry Wood retail park on Thursday – just two weeks after the Homebase store on the same site went up in flames.

Jenny Adams, 44, who lives in Aylesford village and shops at the industrial estate, said: "First it was the Homebase fire, which lasted for three days and caused smoke to blow everywhere and now a suspected bomb, it really is hard to believe they are not linked."

"It does seem like an arsonist is targeting the area as it is just too odd for all these things to happen in the space of two weeks."

"I think the police should tell us what is going on though, whether it was a bomb or not, as we live here and have the right to know if we are at risk. I wouldn't blame them if there was being over cautious,

"I'm glad they are, but it must have been something pretty suspicious to make them call in the Army."

The latest drama unfolded on Thursday morning when the Army's explosive team rushed to Quarry Wood at 8.10am after

officers received calls of a suspicious package.

The package was discovered near recycling bins in the car park of Sainsbury's supermarket by refuse workers.

Armed forces suspected the package could be a bomb so cordoned off the surrounding area, including nearby roads, and carried out a controlled explosion.

A police spokeswoman said investigations are ongoing to determine what was in the package.

The incident follows a suspicious blaze at the branch of Homebase on the same industrial estate which completely gutted the store on Saturday, May 1.

Police believe the fire was started deliberately and could be linked to others in the town.

An arsonist targeted the Larkfield branch of B&Q about an hour after the flames ripped through Homebase, which is less than one-mile away, and police also discovered the foundations of a fire in the Maidstone branch of B&Q, in Barker Road, on Monday, May 3.

Police have charged and remanded in custody a 27-year-old with the third incident – Benny Dighton, of no fixed address.

Investigators from Kent Police's major crime department are currently analysing the three incidents to determine whether they were organised by the same arsonist.

Anyone with information about the fires, should contact the incident room on 01622 654841 or call Kent Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## Free prom in the park invite for all families

FAMILIES are invited to pack a picnic and enjoy the sounds of musical entertainment in a town centre park.

All ages are welcome to Maidstone's Proms in the Park, which will feature favourite songs such as Rule Britannia, Jerusalem and Land of Hope and Glory.

To entertain the youngsters, there will also be hits from High School Musical and Teddy Bears Picnic.

The free concert is on Saturday at Whatman Millennium Park.

Guests with picnics are invited to find a spot from 4.30pm and the music will start at 7.30pm. A fireworks finale will round off the event at 9.15pm.

## Police dogs on patrol catch whiff of drugs

SNIFFER dogs have discovered a stash of drugs hidden outside a town centre nightspot.

The specially trained dogs sniffed out bagged herbal cannabis in a flowerbed by the Muggleton Inn, High Street, on Thursday night.

Officers used the pups as part of an operation to target licensed premises in the town.

Neighbourhood Sergeant John Marshall, who covers the High Street area, said: "This high-visibility operation is indicative of our ongoing commitment to policing the night-time economy effectively and we will continue to work with licensed premises in the town to ensure it remains a safe and enjoyable place for people to socialise."

## Mayor gets a big kick out of martial arts day

THE Mayor of Maidstone was presented with a gold medal for taking part in a special martial arts day.

Councillor Peter Parvin and his wife, fellow councillor Daphne Parvin, were both awarded a certificate and medal by the KIXX Martial Arts club in Granville Road.

The Mayor and Mayoress were the guests of honour at an open day on Sunday, May 9, and gave an encouraging speech to the members and other guests.

Visitors at the event were able to enjoy specialist taster sessions with the club's assistants in Chinese boxing, Wu Chi, KIXX boxing, five ancestors fist, competition wushu and sparring.

To find out more about KIXX, call 07941340284 or visit www.kixx martialarts.co.uk.

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# Glowing tributes on Nurses Day

DEDICATED nurses across the town's hospitals have been recognised for their hard work and compassion as part of a worldwide event.

Nurses and healthcare assistants at BMI Somerfield Hospital and at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trusts' three hospitals were all thanked for their efforts on Wednesday, May 12.

The day marked International Nurses Day, and Florence Nightingale's birthday, and hospital bosses took the opportunity to praise their staff.

Teams at Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells and Pembury hospital were given a glowing tribute from Dr Peter Carter, chief executive and general secretary at the Royal College of

Nursing, for their part in reducing infection rates.

Dr Carter said: "Patients need to know who is in charge, and they can be reassured when the ward sister has the necessary authority, skills and resources."

"When this pivotal role is empowered, ward sisters can ensure care is well organised and well delivered, and that the ward is clean."

"It is no surprise that where this has happened, we are seeing massively reduced infection rates."

"This was only possible because of the strong leadership from the director of nursing, Flo Panel-Coates, and the hard work of the nurses who pulled together."

At the BMI Somerfield Hospital, on the London Road, all 65 nurses and health care assistants were each presented with a specially designed fob watch – to aid infection control as a token of thanks for their vital work.

Connie Stocker, executive director at Somerfield, said: "I feel very fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated team of nurses and health-care assistants at our hospital, so it is an absolute pleasure to take a day out to pay tribute to their roles."

During the past two weeks, patients at the private hospital were asked to vote for their favourite nurse and chose Lotha Ampuan, 45, as their winner.



# Millions in fake notes may be in circulation

■ BY ANNA WHITE

**FRAUDSTERS** behind a counterfeit money factory in Yalding may have pumped millions of pounds of fake notes into the British economy.

A Kent Police spokesman said the money press discovered at Woodfalls industrial park has "the capacity to make millions" and it is feared the notes are already circulating in the country.

The illegal operation was foiled by plain clothes officers during a raid of unit four at the site in Gravelly Way, Laddingford, on Thursday, May 6.

It has not been confirmed if fake notes were found at the unit but the equipment led officers to a house in Faversham and later to the arrest of two suspects.

Colin Edgar, of Priory Place, Faversham, has since been charged with possessing articles for producing counterfeit notes, money laundering and two counts of counterfeiting euros and sterling. He appeared before Folkestone magistrates on May 8 and was remanded in custody until his next court appearance, on May 24.

A 37-year-old woman from Faversham also arrested in connection with the investigation has been released on police bail until June 16.

Officers and forensics teams are still analysing equipment found at the factory in a bid to determine how much has made its way into circulation.

A police source said the fake notes were of "high quality" and could be difficult to spot.

Det Insp Eddie Fox said: "This is a joint inves-



**CASHING IN:** Police tape seals off the unit containing a counterfeit money press at Woodfalls industrial park, Yalding

tigation between Kent Police and the counterfeit currency unit of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (Soca).

"We believe the equipment could be capable of producing millions of pounds in counterfeit currency. This type of crime can cause great damage

to the economy but can also have a devastating impact on individuals who are duped into accepting worthless notes."

It has been confirmed the crooks made the counterfeit money in £20 notes and euros and were in various stages of production.

## Help police collar sex pest flasher

A **FLASHER** who indecently exposed himself to a woman out walking her dog is being sought by police.

The offender – in his 40s and with blond hair – flashed the woman at about 3pm on Friday, May 7, as she walked through Cobtree Manor Park, Forstal Road, Aylesford. The woman says the flasher walked away after the incident.

The man was wearing a white or light coloured T-shirt and dark trousers and had a brown jacket over his shoulder.

PC Carol Featherstone said: "We are keen to catch this culprit. We want to hear from anyone who was in the area at the time or recognises the description of this man."

Contact PC Featherstone on 01795 419182 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111, quoting crime number CY/007356/10.

## The sleazy rider

A **MOTORCYCLIST** is targeting young women in rural Maidstone in a bid to engage in offensive conversation.

Police believe the biker, who rides a red Triumph with a Union Flag sticker on the back, is responsible for a series of incidents where females have been stopped for directions and then received offensive comments.

There have been at least six incidents in the area, dating back at least a year, and officers think they could be linked.

Women have been stopped by the biker in Boughton Monchelsea, Paddock Wood and Borough Green.

PC Catherine Ruler said officers were unsure of the suspect's motive, but he has left several women distressed.

Anyone with information about the rider – or anyone who has been approached by him – is asked to call the police on 01732 379217.

## Dedicated team set up by police

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE  
167 serious sexual offences were reported. In the same period in 2008, 153 were reported.

Overall sexual offences dropped by ten per cent in Maidstone and Swale during the same period.

Seventy-five cases were reported in 2008, up from 65 in 2009.

Detective Chief Inspector of Maidstone Police, Isobel Gibson, said the team is doing everything it can to reduce the amount of serious sexual cases in the area.

She said: "Although the number of the most serious sexual offences appeared to rise last year, this may be due in part to our improved service for victims of sexual assault, encouraging more people to come forward and report their aggressors."

"We have set up a dedicated team at Mid Kent to deal with victims of this type of crime, ensuring that they receive a supportive service from experienced professionals."

"Furthermore, we have improved the number of sexual offences we are able to detect and by finding and interviewing offenders, we have been able to identify further victims of sexual crimes and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice."

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call Detective Sergeant Nigel Douglas on 01622 604280 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## Tracy Beaker actress to open leisure centre



**CHILD'S PLAY:** Tracy Beaker actress Dani Harmer (inset) will open the revamped centre

**CHILDREN'S** TV favourite Dani Harmer will unveil a £4 million makeover at Maidstone leisure centre.

The popular actress, best known for her role as Tracy Beaker, will cut the ribbon at the newly refurbished centre in Mote Park on Saturday.

The transformation includes new interactive water features, flume, play area, swimming pool, toddler playing pool, workout studios, café-bar and poolside eatery, as well as a two-storey gym.

The building has also been given a fresh lick of paint and new decor.

Miss Harmer will officially open the centre accompanied by the new

Mayor of Maidstone, Cllr Eric Hotson.

Council leader Cllr Chris Garland said: "The centre looks magnificent. I think the refurbished centre is great for the borough."

Paul Alcock, chairman of the Maidstone Leisure Trust, which runs the centre, said: "We are committed to providing a first-class centre the community will be proud of."

"We urge everyone to come along and take part in one of the excellent activities we have on offer and feel great this summer."

The refurbishment has taken six months to complete and was funded by the borough council.

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**UNITED FRONT:** MPs Hugh Robertson and Helen Grant hope new Conservative government will help their causes

# Tory MPs vow to win fight against unpopular issues

THE TOWNS' Tory MPs have vowed to take their long-running fight against two major Maidstone applications to the very top of the new Conservative-led government.

Faversham and Mid Kent MP Hugh Robertson and Maidstone and Weald MP Helen Grant are both strongly against Kent International Gateway (KIG) and the proposal to move the town's maternity services to Pembury. They now hope the new Conservative ministers will help them defeat the two unpopular proposals.

Mr Robertson said: "Helen and I have already spoken about both issues at great length, agree on both absolutely and will be working closely together to achieve the best outcomes for all our constituents."

KIG, an application for a 259-acre road-rail interchange to be built in countryside off junction eight of the M20, was referred to the former Labour Secretary of State for communities and local government, Hazel Blears, after the applicant successfully bypassed Maidstone council.

The proposal underwent an intensive six-week inquiry, which finished just before Christmas of last year, and the Inspectorate's recommendation was passed back to Government in April.

The new Secretary of State Eric Pickles

■ BY ANNA WHITE

will now make the final decision.

Mr Robertson, who has held the same seat since 2001, said: "As far as KIG is concerned, I will ask Eric Pickles for an early meeting to put across our opposition to KIG. I will stress that it is unanimously opposed by all elected representatives at every level from parish council to Parliament and across all parties. Given that we are pledged to listen to the views of local people, I hope that this will be a very powerful message."

On the other side of the constituency, Maidstone hospital's consultant-led maternity unit is under threat from NHS Trust bosses who want to move the department to the new Pembury hospital – 17-miles away.

Mrs Grant has vehemently fought to overturn the NHS' decision in a cross-party campaign and before the General Election she managed to persuade the chief executive Glenn Douglas to agree to a meeting with the now Secretary of State of Health Andrew Lansley.

The mother-of-two said she is determined the make the meeting happen.

She said: "Andrew and the chief executive of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust Glenn Douglas subsequently both agreed to my request for a meeting to discuss the situation and I now intend to progress that opportunity as early as possible."

## Road tax dodgers have cars seized

POLICE have targeted road tax dodgers in a successful five-day clampdown on the town's roads.

Officers seized eight cars for having no tax during the operation, which were later either crushed or re-sold.

The untaxed vehicles were taken from Brunell Close, Newbury Avenue, Gladstone Road, Maidstone Road in Wateringbury and Marden railway station.

Operation Cubit was run from Monday, April 19 to Friday, April 23, by Maidstone



**UP AND AWAY:** Eight cars were taken by police and the borough council's environmental enforcement team.

To report an untaxed vehicle call 01622 602000.

## yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

### Don't cop fake phone call

BOGUS police officers have targeted Maidstone and Medway residents in a phone scam to steal bank details.

The fake officers tell the victims that money has been taken from their bank account and then ask more details about the card details.

Kent Police are treating the crimes as an act of fraud and have launched an investigation.

Detective Sergeant Darren Ryder of Maidstone police said: "We take reports that someone has pretended to be a police officer in order to trick an individual into giving away their bank details very seriously."

"We are urging members of the public to be vigilant and not reveal any bank details over the phone, no matter how genuine the caller may seem."

"A real police officer would never ask for bank details, even if investigating fraud."

### Horsebox taken from yard

OFFICERS want to hear from witnesses who may be able to help them trace a stolen horsebox.

The trailer was taken from a stable yard in Pilgrims Way, Detling, between 8pm on Monday, May 10, and 5am the following morning.

The distinctive Robinson Requisite box is blue with a white top and has a post code of RH14 at the top and on the chassis.

Anyone who may have seen the trailer is urged to contact Maidstone police on 01622 604 182 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### Pair caught with cannabis

TWO suspected drug dealers have been arrested following an early morning raid in Maidstone.

A 46-year-old woman has been cautioned for permitting the production of cannabis and a 41-year-old man has been charged with cultivation and possession of cannabis.

The group was caught by officers last on May 11 after the raid at an address in Bell Road, Park Wood.

Police officers executed a search warrant for drugs at the address and discovered a quantity of cannabis plants and herbal cannabis.



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## Parade to celebrate new mayor and our brave engineers

PROUD soldiers will march through the town centre in front of supportive residents to mark the election of the Mayor.

More than 150 servicemen from the 36 Engineer Regiment, based at the Invicta Barracks off Royal Engineer's Way, will take part in Civic and Freedom parade on Sunday.

They will be led through the town by the Brigade of Gurkhas Band and followed by civilians, including the new Mayor of Maidstone Cllr Eric Hotson.

As well as marking councillor Hotson's appointment, which will be formally announced at the full council meeting today, the parade also has a special focus on the celebration of the town's troops.

Cllr Hotson said: "This is going to be an occasion to celebrate the many organisations that contribute to civic life and to honour the commitment and dedication of our troops."

"I want as many people as possible to come out and support our troops. We will be handing out free flags for people to wave as they cheer the soldiers."

The full parade will be made up of 20 field squadron, 50 HQ and support squadron, 70 Gurkha field support squadron and the Royal electrical and mechanical engineers workshop – linked to the 36 Engineer Regiment.

More than 300 residents are expected to attend and watch the soldiers start from Week Street at 11am, which will proceed to Mill Street and to All Saints Church for the Civic Service.

The service is due to finish at 12.15pm. Road closures will be in place for the event between 10.15am and 11.45am.

# Donation helps Emily jump another hurdle

## Sponsorship helps talented athletes edge closer to their Olympic dreams

■ BY ANNA WHITE

AN OLYMPIC hopeful has galloped her way into a sponsorship deal to help her achieve her dream of a gold medal.

Dressage rider Emily Cousins, from Harrietsham, sealed the deal with Cliffe Enterprise at Leeds Castle – where she met bosses at a special charity networking dinner.

The printing company, based in Eastbourne, East Sussex, presented the 21-year-old with £500 towards training and costs as she competes for a spot at the 2010 London Olympics.

Miss Cousins, who dressed in uniform for the presentation on Tuesday, May 11, said: "I am extremely grateful to Cliffe Enterprise for their support. It is so helpful to have sponsorship as I struggle to meet the cost of training, equipment and competition expenses that I need."

"I am going to use the funding to buy a much-needed new pair of riding boots."

The young rider also thanked Leeds Castle for hosting the Go for Gold charity event, on March 26, in partnership with Maidstone's Dream – a council-run initiative to

link the town's athletes and business sponsors.

Councillors hope the scheme will help create a sporting legacy for the town if the youngsters are successful at the Olympic Games.

Trevor Algar, chief executive officer of Cliffe Enterprise, said he was impressed by the amount of talent the website had recruited and was pleased to be able to sponsor one of the 27 registered athletes.

He said: "Cliffe Enterprise is proud to sponsor Emily Cousins in her quest to become a medalist at the 2010 Olympics – we believe she has the talent to take her all the way to the podium."

"We would like to thank Maidstone council and Leeds Castle for providing such a fantastic showcase of local sporting talent, the event provided the exposure our athletes truly deserve."

As a media supporter for the scheme, Yourmaidstone regularly runs profiles on each of the registered athletes and several of the featured sport stars have gone on to secure sponsorship deals.

Since the site launched on May 12 last year, 11 hopefuls have secured a deal.

If you are a business or athlete and want to register your interest, email Karen Smith on [maidstonesdream@maidstone.gov.uk](mailto:maidstonesdream@maidstone.gov.uk) or call 01622 602759.



SPONSORED: Rider Emily Cousins from Harrietsham

## Foster Carer:

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# yourlocalinterview

## QUESTION & ANSWER

### TONY HARWOOD



**Q** Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

**A** I was born in Maidstone – part of a large, long established local family. My upbringing shaped my outlook and determination to fight for local people, our town and countryside.

**Q** You were successfully voted in as the borough councillor for Maidstone north ward at the May 6 election, were you expecting to win?

**A** Combined local and general elections lead to local issues taking a back seat to national politics and prevailing media spin. This means that nothing can be taken for granted and that some unexpected results can occur – some brilliant hard-working councillors like Pat Marshall (Independent) in Bearsted and Daniel Moriarty (Lib Dem) in Park Wood undeservedly lost their seats on May 6. Their communities are the poorer without their dedication and commitment.

**Q** This victory was a re-election for you, how long have you held the north ward seat for?

**A** I have represented Maidstone North Ward since 1995 and previously served for East Ward from 1989. I also represent Woodlands ward (Vinters Park) on Boxley Parish Council.

**Q** Tell us what goes in to a local election campaign? What did you do to secure the votes?

**A** The key to retaining the support of local people is to work hard all year round not

just at election times. It is also vital to hold strong principles so that local people can trust you to fight their corner regardless of political, commercial and other pressures.

**Q** What are the main issues in North ward which you are determined to tackle?

**A** North ward covers a big chunk of the town and is characterised by its diversity of communities and neighbourhoods. This generates a range of local issues and life is never dull. Big local worries include Conservative council plans to withdraw the free weekend freighter service, open up local countryside to unprecedented levels of development and the grim financial legacy that will follow from spending £4.5 million of public money on repaving the High Street.

**Q** Do you have any action plans to address these issues?

**A** I will continue to campaign hard to ensure that some common sense prevails at Maidstone Council – though I don't hold out much hope.

**Q** Are you pleased with the Liberal Democrats' overall performance in the borough election, despite missing out on the majority to the Conservatives?

**A** Local residents and our borough have gained some fantastic new advocates and defenders in newly elected Lib Dems like Jenni Sharpe, Derek Mortimer and David Pickett, but they have sadly lost some of Maidstone's greatest

public servants too with the loss of Independent Pat Marshall and my Lib Dem colleague Daniel Moriarty. Overall I found this local election depressing and have felt a sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach ever since that Thursday night. I am genuinely afraid for the quality of life for our borough's most vulnerable residents and for the future survival of our countryside under current Conservative council leadership.

**Q** What are your thoughts on your main party's situation in central government?

**A** I am a local councillor and regardless of who is in or out of power nationally my absolute commitment is to fighting the corner of the residents I represent and protecting the town and countryside that I love.

**Q** Nick Clegg and Tory leader David Cameron have vowed to work together at Number 10 – do you hope the partnership will help build bridges between the two parties on a local level?

**A** I am not tribally party political in my DNA and I have worked very effectively with some excellent former and current Conservative councillor colleagues like Michael Nightingale and Paul Oldham. Regardless of party politics I am simply convinced that the current Conservative council leadership is the most wrong-headed and least representative I have ever experienced. Many Conservative councillors have confided that they are as depressed as I am with the council's current policy direction.

**Q & A**

Tony Harwood, the Liberal Democrat borough councillor for North Ward, talks to **Anna White** about the local election, his views on Maidstone's future and his serious concerns for the borough under a Tory government

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# Stimson goes as Scally cuts Gills jobs after latest defeat

A WHIRLWIND week at Gillingham FC has led to an uncertain future for players and supporters of Kent's only Football League club.

Chairman Paul Scally moved quickly following the Gills' second relegation in three seasons last weekend, first announcing the departure of manager Mark Stimson and then the surprising release of all 14 out-of-contract players.

The Dubai-based businessman told the BBC he was angered by the manner of the team's 3-0 defeat at Wycombe, which sealed the club's fate in front of more than 2,700 away fans.

He said: "The performance was alarming for me and I troubled about it all over the weekend. I don't remember feeling as low as I feel at the moment, because I feel I've failed."

"I appointed the manager and I stuck by

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

him. I gave him the funds he needed at every instance, I worked him a decent budget and I think we've got a very good squad of players."

Former Grays and Stevenage boss Stimson was appointed Gills manager in November 2007, but was unable to halt the club's slide into League Two.

His new-look team bounced straight back with promotion via the play-offs in May 2009, but failed to win a single away game in a disappointing return to the third flight.

## Resignation

Supporters verbally abused Stimson and called for him to resign following the disastrous defeat at Wycombe, but the 42-year-old refused to budge until Mr Scally forced his hand two days later.



**SHAKE-UP:** Gillingham FC chairman Paul Scally, left, and the favourite to take over as manager, Andy Hessenthaler

"I'm contracted but that will be up to the chairman," Stimson told KOS Media after the game.

"He'll make that decision and I'm sure he'll be honest with me. You can see that the supporters weren't too happy at the end and there were shouts of my name."

"That's a discussion myself and the chairman will have, and I'm sure he will make the right decision that he thinks will take the club forward."

The day after Stimson left the club by "mutual consent", it was announced that all 14 out-of-contract players had been released and were free to seek employment elsewhere.

These included captain Barry Fuller and popular veterans Simon Royce and Mark Bentley.

However, it was noted that the next manager would reassess the situation when he is appointed.

Early favourite for the job is former player-manager Andy Hessenthaler, who recently missed out on three successive promotions with his new club Dover Athletic.

Hessenthaler told KOS Media early this week that he had received no contact from Mr Scally, but that he would like to return to full-time management.

"I've never hidden my desire to return to Football League management," he said. "But I am on contract at Dover and have a job to do to win the Conference South next season."

Another candidate had been thought to be first team coach Mark Robson, but he was released from his role at the club on Tuesday.

## Paedophile gets foreign travel ban

A NOTORIOUS sex offender has been banned from visiting an entire continent.

The foreign travel order prevents paedophile Frederick Stephens from going to Asia where it is believed he intended to 'buy a wife'.

He had been part of the Wonderland Club that was smashed in 1998.

Stephens was among 107 men arrested for 'trading' photos of children over the internet.

Stephens was jailed in 2001 for child sex offences.

This new order prevents the 55-year-old from going anywhere in the Far East for three years, thanks to the efforts of worried detectives.

The Margate father-of-two is also forbidden from entering Turkey.

It follows a civil action at Canterbury Magistrates Court. The case will not be reviewed again until at least May 2013.

Officers lodged the application after Stephens went to the Philippines last year without informing police, breaking a stipulation of his sentence for the distribution of indecent images of children in 2001.

A judge jailed him for 14 months last October for the breach.

He was brought to Canterbury from Wandsworth prison for the hearing last Tuesday.

A police source said: "He had to inform the police of his plans, and he didn't. That means he is back behind bars."



**BAN:** Stephens

# Former MPs support David Miliband in leadership bid

DAVID Miliband has won the backing of former Kent MPs in his quest to succeed Gordon Brown as leader of the Labour Party.

The ex-Foreign Secretary was the first to throw his hat in the ring following Mr Brown's resignation last Tuesday, and the decision has been welcomed by fellow party members in the Garden of England.

Should the 44-year-old win the leadership contest he will have until 2015 to rebuild the Labour Party and mount a serious election challenge – unless the new Con-Lib coalition fails before then.

Other possible contenders include Mr Miliband's younger brother and former Energy Secretary Ed Miliband, ex-Education Secretary Ed Balls and outgoing Chancellor Alistair Darling.

Gwyn Prosser, who lost his Dover seat to the Conservatives, gave his backing to the elder sibling while simultaneously slating Mr Balls.

He said: "David has shown himself to be a highly effective performer. He has good leadership skills and has done a great job as Foreign Secretary, but most of all he is able to articulate some of the most complex issues. That's essential these days."

"On the other hand Ed Balls has some unfortunate characteristics. I was not at all happy

with the way he stigmatised some of the very talented schools in Kent (as part of the National Challenge programme) and in my own constituency."

Before his election to Parliament in 2001, David Miliband had served as Tony Blair's Head of Policy and was credited for playing a major part in the Labour Party's landslide victory of 1997.

He served in various ministerial posts for the first several years of his tenure until being appointed Environment Secretary in 2006, and then Foreign Secretary a year later.

"I think David is dynamic and is an intellectual heavyweight who would have a broad appeal," said former Chatham and Aylesford MP Jonathan Shaw.

"He would be more than a match for the new Prime Minister and his deputy."

Despite refusing to reveal his pick for the leadership, former Gillingham and Rainham MP Paul Clark said both the Milibands could do a good job.

He added: "There's a wide range of talent out there and they both have their strengths."

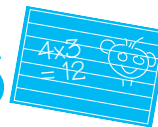
"Both are equally very capable and possess a great number of positive assets."

"All the potential leaders would no doubt bring different things to the party, but the critical thing is that we have a leader who is energetic and who has a vision of how we should go forward."



**CONTENDER:** David Miliband has put himself forward





## BREAK TIME

## Pupils in dramatic tribute to friend

STUDENTS paid tribute to a fellow classmate with a special performance of hit musical Grease.

The pupils from New Line Learning Academy in Loose, danced and belted out numbers from the iconic film at the Hazlitt Theatre in memory of their friend Nicole Barnes.

The 13-year-old from Bearsted died suddenly in September from a stomach and bowel infection.

London's Grease the musical, which was based on the 1978 film starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John, was the teenager's favourite West End show.

Family, staff and governors packed the Earl Street theatre for all three performances on April 5, 6 and 7.

## Christopher has plans for future

A CREATIVE schoolboy has won a county-wide prize with his eco-friendly ideas.

Christopher Haywood, of Thurnham CoE Infant School, in Bearsted, was declared the winner of the Design a House of the Future competition.

The seven-year-old wowed judges with his designs for a home with a wind turbine on its roof, a vegetable garden and water-saving features.

Elephant – a Kent-based window and conservatory company – awarded the Christopher with a digital camera and £100 for his school.

## Designer proud to be first chancellor of art college

■ BY ANNA WHITE

LEGENDARY fashion icon Zandra Rhodes has become the first chancellor to be installed at her former art college in Kent.

The eccentric designer was inducted into her new role at the University for the Creative Arts during a colourful ceremony, which included a catwalk show of pink-wigged models – inspired by Rhodes' own fluorescent hair-do.

The fashionista, whose celebrity clients have included Kylie Minogue, Freddie Mercury, Princess Diana and actress Sarah Jessica Parker, attended UCA's Rochester campus when it was The Medway College of Design.

Her mother also taught there.

After accepting her new title on Thursday, May 6, Rhodes said: "It is an enormous honour to become the very first Chancellor of the University for the Creative Arts, where I began my own studies.

"I will make it my upmost priority to ensure future generations of students continue to have the same positive and inspiring experience as I did."

To ensure she was not upstaged by the glamorous models, the icon made her own style statement at the London event by wearing an eye-catching pink and green gown, which she had designed especially for the ceremony.

"I wanted to create something that had the wow factor, but remained with the

sense of the occasion," she said. "I hope the distinctive colour scheme and intricately designed embroidery puts my own mark on what is usually a subdued, black garment."

As the university's chancellor, Rhodes will represent all five of the institution's sites, which are based in Rochester, Oakwood Park in Maidstone, Canterbury, Epsom and Farnham.

It will be her duty to preside at UCA's graduation ceremonies and she will be the only other person apart from the vice-chancellor, Professor Elaine Thomas, with the power to award degrees to students.

Professor Thomas said: "We sought someone with energy, drive, and most importantly, a passion for creativity – Zandra Rhodes has displayed this throughout her high-profile career and we are proud to have her as our chancellor."

## Distinguished

Chairman of UCA's board of governors, Loyd Grossman, said he believes the famous designer's successful career in the fashion industry will benefit the students' own futures.

Grossman, a former journalist at the Sunday Times, said: "Zandra is one of the world's most recognisable, distinguished and exciting designers.

"Her career has been built upon the foundations of hard work and determination which we believe will help inspire and motivate our students in their chosen careers."

Other famous former UCA students include fashion designers Karen Millen OBE and Jeff Banks CBE, and artist Tracey Emin.



UNIQUE: UCA Chancellor Zandra Rhodes in her stylish gown

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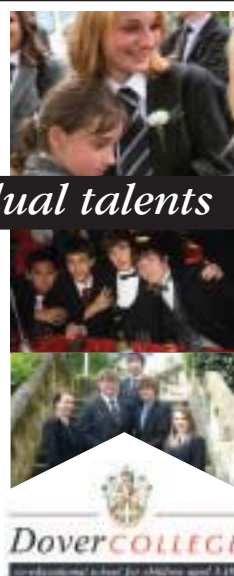
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## YOUR LETTERS

### Putting nursing myths to bed

May 12 – Florence Nightingale's birthday – is International Nurses' Day and this year also marked 100 years since her death.

Nurses from Medway Maritime Hospital looked at some of the common misconceptions about nursing and how things have changed since the Lady with the Lamp walked the wards.

"A nurse is an assistant to the doctor"; "I'd equate nursing with something like hairdressing – there are some skills involved but not too technical"; "Not for those who could do a degree"; "I'm not sure you need to be a leader to be a good nurse – surely doctors have the final say anyway".

Those are just some of the comments highlighted in a recent report about nursing which show the public generally believe nurses to be put-upon victims of their vocation, unambitious and usually female.

The public image of nursing appears to have changed little since the days of Florence Nightingale (May 12, 1820 – August 13, 1910).

This couldn't be further from the truth. Nurses are highly skilled, educated to degree level and enjoy autonomy in their roles.

They work closely alongside doctors, not below them, and they are highly respected. And the number of male nurses entering the profession is increasing all the time.

I think nursing is being done a disservice and I think it's only right to dispel some of these myths and let people know what a career in nursing is really like.

And who better to do this than our nurses?

Senior Sister and A&E nurse practitioner Inma Diaz, who began her nursing career in Spain, said: "In Spain, the role of nurse is more like a doctor's assistant, so when I came to the UK it was a bit of a shock at first.

"Here, we diagnose, treat and discharge many minor injury patients without the need for a doctor.

"I originally wanted to go into medicine and decided to use nursing as a route into medical school, but once I began nursing I loved it and I decided that I wanted to care for people, not just prescribe for them.

"I studied in Spain and gained a diploma and now I am currently studying for a degree.

"It takes a lot to be a nurse – you need to be caring; have good communication skills; diplomacy; empathy and stamina. I try to treat people as if they were my own family.

"I think nurses run hospitals and they are very knowledgeable – the human body is a complicated and beautiful machine and you need to know how it runs. Nurses have led a lot of the recent improvements in the NHS."

Acute pain nurse specialist Martin Kuhn added: "Nursing has changed a lot since I qualified in 1981. There are a lot more options

## yourblogger

Gareth Arnold would like to keep a low profile, but unfortunately facebook seems to have other ideas



**FACEBOOK**, with its friendly, blue lowercase f and cretinous, boggle-eyed farm animals is hiding a dark secret.

Or rather, it's not. In fact, it's not hiding much at all and therein lies the problem.

Just in case you don't already know, the uproar over the big f's privacy settings has finally, and publicly, exploded. This culminated in an emergency meeting at the American social network's headquarters last week to discuss why everyone has stopped playing Mafia Wars and turned the guns on them.

You see if you've never explored the brain-bleedingly complex privacy controls (50 different settings and 170 options), then the vast majority of your facebook interaction is available to the entire interweb. Not just your friends, not just your network, not even just facebook users. The. Whole. Internet.

That drunken wall post in which you compared your boss with North Korean dictator Kim Jong-il. That picture of you vomiting on a friend's car wearing a blonde wig and a tutu. There for all to see, unless of course you've bothered to tell facebook otherwise.

It didn't always used to be this way. When facebook launched in 2005, only a fraction of this information could be seen by default, and none of it by the entire internet. But things change, especially when information is worth money to third parties interested in accurately targeted marketing campaigns.

There will be some who are unbothered by this. I'm

sure there are people who've never had a compromising photo taken and are happy everything they post can be seen. But you're missing the point.

Currently, facebook's privacy settings are opt-in. If you don't change them yourself, no one is going to do it for you. Surely private should be the default setting?

Meanwhile some smug commentators are scaling new levels of supercilious self-satisfaction by claiming "it's your fault if you share that sort of information and don't check privacy settings. Noob! LoL!"

This sort of thing isn't helpful, and fails to note the huge variety of people currently using facebook.

Its bright, easy to navigate system is not targeted at tech heads. It is purposely enticing everyday users who just want to stay in touch, and the interface implies a default level of privacy which does not exist.

Of course, the easiest way to avoid all this is not to join the first place, or failing that, delete your account.

This is where things get a bit freaky. Without Googling the increasingly popular "how do I delete my facebook account?" just try to commit social network seppuku.

Deactivation is straightforward, but does nothing to protect your privacy, or terminate your account. All your info is still there. To escape facebook's clutches entirely the system is long (two weeks!), frustrating, and purposely complex. Facebook is desperate to be your special friend forever... Get out while you can. To delete your account go to [www.wikihow.com/Permanently-Delete-a-Facebook-Account](http://www.wikihow.com/Permanently-Delete-a-Facebook-Account).

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Simon Robinson**, on 01303 817185 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Maidstone blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to [www.yourmaidstone.co.uk](http://www.yourmaidstone.co.uk).

now for nurses who want to specialise in particular areas.

"Nurses nowadays are highly skilled and there is a high expectation on them. In addition to the skills and knowledge you have to be compassionate, motivated and prepared to listen and negotiate with patients to agree their care with them.

"I love my job and being on the wards working with patients and other nurses and helping people. The work is varied – no two days are ever the same."

**Jacquie McKenna, Director of Nursing at Medway NHS Foundation Trust, by email**

### LibDem supporters should join Greens

Kent Green Party has examined the statements explaining what the new Coalition Government will do. Our immediate conclusion is that unemployment will rise significantly as a result of the proposed policies of this coalition.

The new coalition is committed to immediate cuts in public spending of £6 billion with worse to follow. This will, without question, lead to a rise in unemployment nationally and here in Kent and Medway.

This coalition is planning a second recession. Sectors such as local government, the civil service and the University sector are already shedding lots of jobs despite obvious staff shortages.

This could be avoided: we could

tax the wealthiest fifth of households more, and increase taxes on large corporations, whilst closing tax loopholes and bringing in a tax on currency transactions.

We can also cut the bloated defence budget by bringing our forces home from Afghanistan in line with public opinion.

The coalition also begins life without a promise of a fair electoral system. Once again, despite clear public support, the new Government is to maintain one of the very few undemocratic electoral systems in the world.

We can only imagine how many Liberal Democrat members and supporters feel: they voted LibDem and got a Conservative Government with mainly Conservative policies. Green Party leader, Caroline Lucas MP, has already issued a national media release encouraging disillusioned LibDems to join the Green Party.

Kent Green Party invites LibDems in Kent and Medway to examine Green Party policies and join us.

**Dr Hazel Dawe, Chair of Kent Green Party, by email**

### Election waved goodbye to the BNP

So the BNP's Harry Williams (party candidate for Shepway) has a whinge after his Party were trounced at the General Election barring a few extra protest votes.

In their target seats they and their "vile politics", as Labour's Margaret Hodge put it, were rumbled and so lost many of their local councillors – all in Barking – and got nowhere in the Parliamentary seats.

As Winston Churchill might have put it: "Never were so few, so easily rebuked". He'd also have seen right through leader Nick Griffin and volubly denounced him especially for hijacking his image on their electioneering.

As for the BNP's 'indigenous' line, it was the 'English' who swamped the Celtic peoples etc around 1,500 or so years ago leading I suspect to the Williams's of the day, to complain about that too.

After the last ice-age, the locals were just hunter gatherers and, as has been found from recent genetic research, it was migrants from the Middle East who brought their farming techniques and then inter-married to foster 'modern civilisation'.

Who then is 'indigenous'?

As for 'foreign companies' buying some of ours, it's swings and roundabouts really.

We set-up and/or owned many of them originally during the largely disreputable in my view, Empire days from which Mr Williams etc seem to be suffering a hangover.

Economies as with companies rise and decline and always have. However, I suggest we need to move on to seek better and more internationalist ways of doing things anyway – especially with global warming upon us as climate

scientists have again shown to Griffin et al's chagrin – and find prosperity without growth as more and more economists are arguing for.

So I leave the BNP to self implode via its internal squabbles such as the recent coup attempt by Mark Collett – he's already been exposed on TV for praising Hitler – and other such, whilst the rest of us via the leftist Searchlight magazine to the Conservatives Nothing British about the BNP campaigns etc will continue to expose them to the public.

**Ray Duff, by email**

### Don't forget about ME now votes cast

May is M.E. Awareness Month and satisfied or not with last week's election results, your readers may wish to know that Damian Green MP has shown an interest in representing constituents with M.E. (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis) at national level by supporting the All Party Parliamentary Group for M.E. at Westminster.

We hope that Mr Green will remember the needs of vulnerable people with M.E. and other chronic health problems now the votes have been cast and the new Government starts looking at cut-backs.

**Sir Peter Spencer, Chief Executive Action for M.E., by email**

### Rambling about for bargain price of a £1

To celebrate its 75th anniversary, and for one day only, Britain's walking charity, Ramblers, will be giving away membership at unmissable prices.

As part of national 'Get Walking Day' on Saturday, May 22, new walkers who take part in one of the fun, free short walks will be offered a £1 membership, that will give them access to 28,000 walks per year, discretionary awards, and subscription to the award-winning Walk magazine.

The Kent walk, organised by Canterbury Ramblers, will start at 10am at the University of Kent Visitors Car Park, Giles Lane, Canterbury.

Entitled "Canterbury's Ancient Woodlands", it will be a four mile leisurely walk through fields and woods mainly along footpaths and will involve some stiles.

The offer is available to people who join one of the named Get Walking Day strolls. The offer is restricted to the first 30 joiners.

Everyone and anyone is encouraged and welcome on Get Walking Day – no matter what their age, stage or walking ability.

So dust down those shoes, open your door and get your friends and family out to join the Ramblers on one of our fun, free, festival events.

It's a fantastic, low-cost way to make new friends and make the most of the weekend!

If you can't join in with a Get Walking Day walk, but you need some help getting started, then visit our website [www.getwalking.org.uk](http://www.getwalking.org.uk)

**Julia Bradbury, the Ramblers President**





NOW HEAR THIS: Pulp's frontman Jarvis Cocker

## Cocker's sound idea for Trust

MUSICIAN Jarvis Cocker has worked with the National Trust to create an album taking listeners on a journey around its properties across Britain.

The former Pulp frontman has produced the 33-minute soundtrack titled National Trust: The Album, using the sounds of birdsong, crashing waves and the wind rushing through country gardens.

One of the tracks features sounds from Chartwell, the former home of Sir Winston Churchill at Westerham, near Sevenoaks. The album, which is available to download free from the National Trust website, has taken three months to produce.

A spokesman said: "It is designed to showcase the peace and tranquility people enjoy when they visit the special places cared for by the National Trust."

Jarvis Cocker's recording can be downloaded until the end of June at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/soundsalbum](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/soundsalbum).

# Online judgement puts sentencing ball in your court

■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

THINK there are too many hardened criminals on our streets because of "soft" sentencing by out-of-touch courts and judges?

If so, check out a new interactive website which has been launched in Kent to counter that perception by allowing the public to pass their own sentences on virtual villains.

They can then compare the outcome of real life cases, with names changed, with their own sentencing suggestions.

One case is already online, and it appears most people agreed with the bench of magistrates shown in the interactive film of a man found guilty of criminal damage and given a community sentence. But a few wanted him locked up for three months. More cases will be uploaded in the coming months.

The Kent Criminal Justice Board (KCJB) said it is concerned many people still don't know what happens inside a real court room, nor appreciate how complex an apparently simple hearing can turn out to be.



**WEBSITE:** You judge the defendant in the interactive court which gives an eye-opening view of the justice system

It has created a chance for the public to judge and pass sentence on a real-life criminal court cases. The interactive guide to sentencing takes the viewer along the passage of justice step by step, explaining some of the usually hidden details.

It shows how the decision-making process works and gives visitors to the site the chance to be the judge and pass sentence themselves.

Acting Chief Constable of Kent Adrian Leppard, who chairs the Kent Criminal Justice Board, said: "Improving people's knowledge of how the criminal justice system in general and the courts in particular work is a key factor in improving public confidence."



Deputy chairman of the Magistrates' Association, John Fassenfelt, who sits on the Central Kent Bench, said: "The website is designed to open the system up to communities and help them see, first-hand, that the punishment fits the crime and the important part that magistrates courts play in serving their communities."

The KCJB is comprised of Kent Police, Crown Prosecution Service, Kent Probation, the Prison Service, Courts Service, Youth Offending Services and the Legal Services Commission.

Go to [www.cjsonline.gov.uk/kent](http://www.cjsonline.gov.uk/kent) and click on 'You Be The Judge'.

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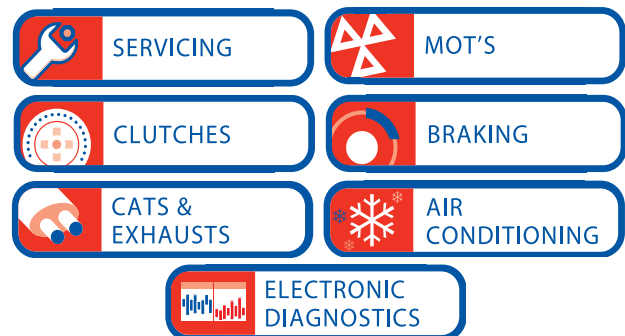
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## DAY & NIGHT

### Pupils make their point

YOUNG actors from six primary and secondary schools will perform at Chatham's Brook Theatre next week.

From Where I'm Standing will be performed by the students who will explore issues that are important to them.

Tickets for the show at 7.30pm on Wednesday, May 26 cost £3.

To book call 01634 338338.

### Go backstage for tour

GO behind the scenes when the Orchard Theatre in Dartford holds an open day on Saturday.

Backstage tours will be available and there will be entertainment throughout the day, plus competitions and children's activities. The free event runs from 10am to 3pm. Call 01322 220000 or visit [www.orchardtheatre.co.uk](http://www.orchardtheatre.co.uk).

### Help for silver surfers

SILVER surfers are encouraged to attend internet taster sessions in Medway on Friday.

If you are 60 or over, learn to use eBay at Wigmore Library and Chatham Library at 9.30am, discover the internet at Wigmore Library at 11am or learn about genealogy at Chatham Library at 9.30am. To book call 01634 338400.

### Jazz clarinet at club

NEW Orleans clarinetist Evan Christopher will perform at the RAFA Club in Chatham on Tuesday.

Along with remarkable musicians David Blenkhorn, Dave Kelbie and Seb Girardot, he will play some of guitar legend Django Reinhardt's repertoire.

The concert starts at 8.30pm and tickets cost £10. There will also be a raffle.

### Craft Cases exhibition

NEW work by local artists is now on show at the Craft Cases in Maidstone's Hazlitt Arts Centre.

Liberty Gallery of Kings Hill presents silver jewellery by Sian Bostwick, glasswork by Yvonne Freeborn and Jenny Brown and textile art by Sue Pritchard.

The work is presented in conjunction with Maidstone Borough Council.

### Madness in Our House

TWO possible lives play out when the hit Madness-inspired musical Our House visits Maidstone.

From Wednesday, May 26 to Saturday, May 29, the Hazlitt Theatre will host the first chance for south east audiences to see the show outside London. To book call 01622 758611 or visit [www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk](http://www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk).

### Gallery's debut show

A NEW gallery opens in Maidstone on Saturday with a showcase by local artist Jennifer Price.

Craig Turner: Contemporary Art & Design Gallery at 112a Week Street will hold an open day from 10am to 6pm. Price recently exhibited alongside Vic Reeves and Graham Clarke in the town centre. Visit [www.jenniferpriceart.com](http://www.jenniferpriceart.com).



# Searchers rock, five decades on

## THE SEARCHERS

Sunday, May 30

Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone



**HUNT** down some musical memories when The Searchers bring their timeless sound to Maidstone.

For 50 years, the band has been entertaining crowds with their great 60s hits and their popularity has rarely wavered. From their humble beginnings on the Northern club scene, the Searchers now perform all over the world, from the US to the Far East.

Formed in 1960 as a backing group for Johnny Sandon, the Liverpool-based band took its name from the John Wayne film of the same name. The line-up included John McNally, Mike Pender, Tony Jackson and Norman McGarry, but it has evolved over the decades and McNally is the only founding member remaining.

Together they played at the Iron Door Club and won the attention of the Beatles' influential manager, Brian Epstein. But when Epstein agreed to come and see them play in London, the band squandered the chance by spending too long in the pub before the gig.

Sandon left the band in 1961 to take his chances with the Remo Four, but the remain-

ing members continued to play at legendary Liverpool clubs such as the Cavern. The following year they made the trip to Hamburg, which was 'the beat Mecca of the Continent' at the time, and soon won over the German music lovers.

The Beatles had already opened Europe's eyes to the potential of British bands and when the Searchers returned to the UK, they signed a contract with Pye Records and were managed by Tony Hatch.

After a slow start, their first single Sweets for My Sweet climbed to the top of the charts and knocked the Beatles off the top spot.

### Chart-toppers

They followed this early success with the number two single Sugar and Spice, before releasing another chart-topper, Needles and Pins. Further hits came with Don't Throw Your Love Away and Some Day We're Gonna Love Again.

When vocalist and bass guitarist Tony Jackson decided to leave in 1964 and form The Vibrations, the arrival of Frank Allen saved the band from possible disaster. Allen became one of the best front men of the 60s and remains with the band to this day.

The Searchers continued to thrive over the next two years, releasing hits such as When You Walk in the Room, Goodbye My Love, What Have They Done to the Rain and Take

Me for What I'm Worth. More line-up changes followed and during the 70s, the band began to move away from the pop charts and on to the cabaret circuit, but they released two new albums to critical acclaim.

When Mike Pender left in 1985 after more than 20 years with the band, the Searchers entered an uncertain phase.

But there was a resurgence in the popularity of 60s music during the 80s and, with gifted new member Spencer James on board, the band embarked on national package tours and released a compilation album to mark their 25th anniversary.

During the 90s, the band's popularity soared and they began making appearances at festivals, 60s weekends and their own solo shows. Travelling all over the world to entertain fans and the troops, the Searchers were once again an international force and they continue to rock venues everywhere.

Today's line-up comprises John McNally, Frank Allen, Scott Ottaway and Spencer James.

The band has devised a special concert for this UK tour, which features all their best-loved hits, along with original album recordings, B-side tracks and other favourite songs.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £17/£16. To book call the box office on 01622 758611 or visit the website at [www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk](http://www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk).





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## THE ENCHANTED KINGDOM

Ongoing, The Hop Farm, Paddock Wood

PLUNGE into a world of magic and mystery at the Hop Farm's new summer attraction, the Enchanted Kingdom.

From teddy bears to lions, young visitors will discover a fairytale world packed full of surprises as they embark on an exciting adventure. Children aged up to 10 will find plenty to enthral them as they meet a variety of interesting characters.

Animatronics and special effects add extra magic as visitors make their way past the 'Teddy Bears' Picnic and meet the gorillas, monkeys, lions and tigers in the interactive Jungle

Scene. There is also be the chance to take part in a treasure hunt as the trail leads visitors to the secret Pirate Cove at the heart of the Enchanted Kingdom.

'Real' pirates will greet the children as they explore the cave, filled with treasure and jewels. Aspiring seadogs must make their way through the galleon without waking the pirates and dig around for gold doubloons, which can be exchanged for chocolate money.

Admission is from £12.50. For details call 01622 872068 or visit [www.thehopfarm.co.uk](http://www.thehopfarm.co.uk).



## WE'LL MEET AGAIN

Thursday, May 20. Central Theatre, Chatham

DURING World War II, national morale was supported by a handful of very special entertainers.

When the armed forces and civilians were facing the horror and uncertainty of conflict, music and song were important weapons in keeping despair at bay. The tunes that became wartime favourites continue to resonate today and these unforgettable songs are celebrated in We'll Meet Again.

For more than nine years, the show has been taking audiences on a trip down Memory Lane and keeping the legacy of iconic

40s stars alive. From Vera Lynn and Max Miller, to Bing Crosby and Al Jolson, We'll Meet Again remembers the music and comedy that played an important role in the war effort.

So sit back, enjoy the show and remember the days when there were bluebirds over the White Cliffs of Dover in this nostalgic and affectionate concert.

The performance starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £11/£10. Discounts of £2 off the top-priced tickets are available for groups. To book call the box office on 01634 338338 or visit [www.the-centraltheatre.co.uk](http://www.the-centraltheatre.co.uk).

## JEZ LOWE AND THE BAD PENNIES

Friday, May 21, Memorial Hall, Lower Halstow



THE Bad Pennies will be turning up in Lower Halstow this week, along with acclaimed singer Jez Lowe.

Described by BBC Radio 2 as one of our best songwriters, Lowe is skilled at combining bittersweet lyrics with lively melodies to create an unforgettable sound. For 15 years, Lowe and the Bad Pennies have been performing their songs and music of Northern England all over the world. Lowe won a Sony Award for his songwriting work on the BBC's Radio Ballads series and has been nominated for the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards.

Lowe is joined by Kate Bramley on fiddle and duet vocals, Tyneside champion Northumbrian piper Andy May on pipes, whistles and piano and fretless bass supremo David de la Haye on bass and vocals.

In their show Northern Echoes, the band combines traditional and contemporary songs to toe-tapping effect. With Badapple Theatre, the show is enhanced with vintage video and photography.

Part of the Applause Rural Touring spring season, the concert starts at 8pm and tickets cost £8/£7. To book call 01795 843681/842419 or email [cpc@claxfield.co.uk](mailto:cpc@claxfield.co.uk).



## JACQUI DANKWORTH

Saturday, May 22, The Mick Jagger Centre, Dartford



MUSICAL pedigrees do not come much better than Jacqui Dankworth's enviable heritage.

As the daughter of Dame Cleo Laine and the late Sir Johnny Dankworth, she is known as the 'Princess of Jazz' and entertaining is in her blood. But against expectations, singing was not her first path into show business.

Dankworth first became an actress and enjoyed a successful career, appearing with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre before landing lead roles in West End musicals. But after making a big noise on the stage, Dankworth decided to focus on her recording career and has gone on to distinguish herself in that field as well.

After touring Hawaii, Hong Kong and Indonesia with her brother Alec's quintet, she worked on a song cycle with award-winning jazz composer and saxophonist Tim Garland. Now Dankworth is noted for her own compositions, along with stunning performances of contemporary songs and jazz standards.

The concert starts at 8pm and tickets cost £17.50/£15.50. Call the box office on 01322 291100. Find out more online at [www.themickjaggercentre.com](http://www.themickjaggercentre.com).

## PAUL MERTON'S IMPRO CHUMS



Saturday, May 22. Orchard Theatre, Dartford

WATCH one of Britain's best-loved comedians pluck laughter from thin air this weekend.

Armed with nothing but his wit, Paul Merton will lead a group of fellow comics through an evening of improvisation and impromptu gags. Although Merton is perhaps best known for his long-running role on BBC panel show, Have I Got News For You, he is also a skilled improviser.

He will be joined by his Impro Chums – Mike McShane, Lee Simpson, Richard Vranich and Suki Webster – to present a unique comedy show that is entirely guided by the suggestions of the audience. No matter what ridiculous ideas and silly scenarios are put forward, the group will strive to make something out of nothing and create hilarious comedy from the most unlikely beginnings.

All the performers have been improvising with the Comedy Store Players since the mid-90s and a previous Impro Chums line-up went on a highly successful tour of India in 2004.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £20. Book at [www.orchardtheatre.co.uk](http://www.orchardtheatre.co.uk) or call 01322 220000.







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## Don't feed your body junk

### ■ Village Health and Fitness

WHAT are the damaging effects of junk food?

Junk food is very tasty and no one goes without noticing it and wanting to tuck into it. Resisting it is difficult and with age the consumption of junk food is something to be avoided, as it is detrimental your body.

But exactly how harmful can it be to your body?

- Here's a look at why you need to cut down:
- junk foods are made using a lot of saturated fats. Such fats are unhealthy and, when they are digested, they release a lot of toxins into your body. You body gets food, but not healthy food.
  - it is sometimes made using ingredients that are not very clean. This can, in the long run, badly affect your stomach, liver and intestines.
  - a lack of the vitamins, minerals and many of the nutrients seen in properly-cooked and raw food is missing. The body is not getting what it needs for good health and immunity from diseases. Consequently, it can make the person eating such food very prone to illnesses.
  - an obvious side effect is putting on weight. People who are obese or morbidly obese are those with a preference for junk food and snacking.
  - eating junk food can make you prone to diabetes because it contains too much sugar. You can also become susceptible to heart disease and high blood pressure because of the salt and high fats found in this kind of food.
  - many processed foods contain preservatives and colouring, both of which contain carcinogenic substances.
  - in the long run eating unhealthily actual-



ly speeds up the effects of ageing. People who continuously eat junk food show signs of old age faster because the body is exposed to bad nutrition for long periods. The result is the release of free radicals which are the chief factors responsible for the ageing effect.

The habit of eating junk food is particularly prevalent in children, teenagers and young

adult, and as they grow older it can tell on their health. The main factor that attracts people to eat junk food is the taste. This taste must be substituted with food that is delicious and cooked well, but at the same time healthy for the body. The intake of salads and fruits must be taken up or increased.

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# yourmusic

## Blondie join stars at the Hop Farm



**JOINING LINE-UP:** The timeless Blondie will be on the Hop Farm Festival's main stage

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

NEW-wave pop-rockers Blondie have been added to the Hop Farm Festival's bulging bill of all-time musical greats.

The timeless Debbie Harry-fronted outfit – famed for hits such as Sunday Girl, Heart Of Glass, Atomic and Hanging On The Telephone – will perform on the first day of the Paddock Wood weekender, taking to the stage before headliner Van Morrison.

Los Lobos, Imelda May and Damien Dempsey have also been added to that night's main-stage line-up.

The following day will see Bob Dylan, former Kinks frontman Ray Davies and Libertines singer-songwriter Pete Doherty grace the same stage.

They will be joined by Mumford & Sons, Seasick Steve, Laura Marling, The Magic Numbers, Foy Vance and Johnny Flynn.

Hop Farm bosses have also named a host of second-stage performers.

These include Afro Celt Sound System, Richard Thompson, Peter Green & Friends and Sweet Billy Pilgrim (all Friday) and Devendra Banhart, Jim Jones Revue, Tunng, Medway blues guitarist Pete Molinari and Jon Allen (all Saturday).

Festival-founder Vince Power said the latest additions had already gone down well with Kent's music-lovers.

"It's fantastic that we continue to see such a positive response from Hop Farm Festival fans," he said. "With the latest additions to the bill plus second stage and a third to be announced soon, there will be something for everyone."

The Hop Farm Festival will be held in Paddock Wood on Friday Saturday, July 2-3.

It boasts three stages, a five-a-side celebrity football tournament, comedy acts and a fun-fair.

A Hop Farm organiser said: "This festival offers an experience of boutique camping, top-notch

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- 2 Save Target As - 30/5 Downtown Diner, Ashford
- 3 Craig Sheridan - 5/6 The Port Arms, Deal
- 4 The Cunning Plan - 16/6 Deal Town Hall
- 5 I.R.I.S - 19/6 Quex Festival, Birchington

food and traditional ales, with some of the best legendary artists playing over the festival.

"It is an event for festival-goers, returning live music to its roots."

Friday tickets are £45. Entry on Saturday costs £65 and a two-day ticket is £110. A two-night camping ticket is £25. Details at [www.hopfarmfestival.com](http://www.hopfarmfestival.com).

**LINE-UP:** Van Morrison, Blondie, Los Lobos, Imelda May, Bob Dylan, Ray Davies, Mumford & Sons, Seasick Steve, Pete Doherty, Devendra Banhart, Pete Molinari



**ATMOSPHERE:** Enjoy a meal in Saint-Leu in Amiens before sampling the area's nightlife. Below, the gothic cathedral is a UNESCO heritage site.

## yourgetaways

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■ BY ED HILL

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Luckily, here in Kent we are in the prime location to take advantage of all that Europe has to offer without needing to board a plane.

A wealth of destinations is less than half a day away by car and ferry.

Picardy in the Somme region of France is a great place to start. The area already attracts a large number of British travellers who visit First World War battlefields, but the region has much to offer those less interested in military history.

After arriving in Calais, drive south for an hour to the Bay of Somme (Baie de Somme). The estuary is considered one of the most beautiful in the world and offers visitors long stretches of sandy beaches and huge skies where you can watch the wildlife or hire bicycles and sand yachts.

One of the biggest attractions for visitors is the Parc du Marquenterre. This nature reserve, which was once a tulip farm created on land recovered from the sea, offers birdwatchers the chance to get close to a wealth of migrating birds.

Familiar species such as herons and oystercatchers can be seen, but there is also the chance to see white storks on their huge nests that look like the end of a chimney sweep's brush, not seen in the UK.

On your way to the region's capital Amiens, why not stop off at the town

### FACT FILE: PICARDY

#### Getting there

Ed Hill travelled with P&O from Dover to Calais. For latest prices, visit [www.poferries.com](http://www.poferries.com).

#### Highlights

Parc du Marquenterre Nature reserve guided visit. [www.parcdumarquenterre.com](http://www.parcdumarquenterre.com)

Baie de Somme. Visit the 'No Shoes Club' to hire bikes, land-yachts and learn about the wildlife.

[www.noshoes-baiedesomme.com](http://www.noshoes-baiedesomme.com)

To find out what Amiens has to offer, go to [www.visit-amiens.com](http://www.visit-amiens.com).

#### Food and accommodation

Baie de Somme: Hôtel-restaurant du Cap Hornu.

Amiens: Hôtel Mercure Cathédrale.

#### Restaurants

Restaurant le Quai on the waterfront of Saint Leu and La Basilique in Albert.



of Albert, which was totally rebuilt after 1918? An excellent lunch can be had at the Basilique restaurant in the town square opposite the church, with its famous golden statue of an angel and baby Jesus on the top of its tower.

The region's capital Amiens, just 30 kilometres away, makes an ideal destination for a short break.

Wander the ancient streets around the cathedral. The mighty gothic structure is a UNESCO world heritage site, with a remarkable façade full of intricate carvings of saints, kings and folklore.

An evening meal in the waterside district of Saint-Leu offers the chance to soak up the atmosphere of French dining.

The area is the historic heart of

the city but also offers modern nightlife and attracts large numbers of students who study at the nearby Faculty of Science.

Amiens is situated at the conjunction of a myriad of rivers and canals. First-time visitors should take a boat trip round the floating gardens of the Hortillonnages.

These smallholdings surrounded by water have been cultivated by locals since the Middle Ages. Most are now private gardens, although some still supply fruit and vegetables to local shops.

It is a remarkably tranquil place in the centre of the busy city and uniquely French in character. It's the ideal place to end your visit to a region that deserves being explored again and again.





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- For you and a companion we will organise your ferry crossings, 3 nights en-route hotel accommodation and breakdown assistance. The rest is up to you!

To take part we ask that you raise a minimum sponsorship of **£1,500\*** for Martha by 31st August 2010.

**£400 deposit required by 30th June 2010.**

See previous rallies 'Rome or Bust' and 'Mad for Madrid' at [www.marthatrust.org.uk](http://www.marthatrust.org.uk)

Further info and fundraising pack please contact Serita Boxall:

Tel: 01304 610448 & 07876 246181

Email: [seritaboxall@marthatrust.org.uk](mailto:seritaboxall@marthatrust.org.uk)

\*Including £400 deposit



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## TODAY'S FORECAST



## AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	15°C	Madrid	22°C
Athens	23°C	New York	19°C
Barcelona	18°C	Paris	16°C
Beijing	18°C	Rome	19°C
Bombay	33°C	Sydney	16°C
Cape Town	23°C	Tenerife	23°C
Cardiff	14°C	Tokyo	24°C
Gibraltar	19°C	Vancouver	16°C
Hong Kong	29°C	Warsaw	11°C
Las Palmas	22°C	Wellington	16°C



## KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

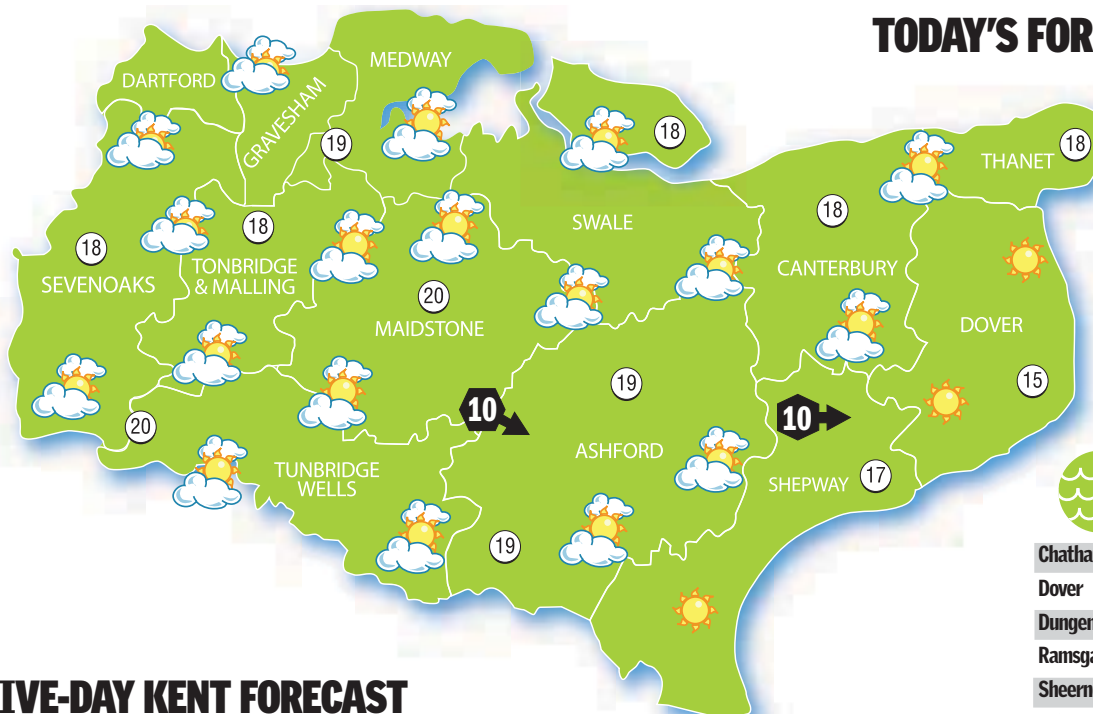
Chatham	Saturday	8:08am 5.4m	Sunday	9:20am 5.5m
Dover	Saturday	6:43am 5.7m	Sunday	7:52am 5.8m
Dungeness	Saturday	6:10am 6.3m	Sunday	7:31am 6.3m
Ramsgate	Saturday	7:13am 4.3m	Sunday	8:22am 4.4m
Sheerness	Saturday	7:56am 5.2m	Sunday	9:08am 5.3m
Whitstable	Saturday	8:05am 4.8m	Sunday	9:14am 4.8m



SUNRISE 4:57am SUNSET 8:47pm



MOONRISE 10:18am MOONSET 1:00am



## FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	18°C	21°C	21°C	21°C	21°C
Canterbury	15°C	18°C	19°C	18°C	18°C
Chatham	15°C	18°C	19°C	18°C	18°C
Dartford	19°C	21°C	21°C	22°C	21°C
Dover	15°C	16°C	18°C	17°C	17°C
Faversham	15°C	18°C	19°C	18°C	18°C
Folkestone	15°C	16°C	18°C	17°C	17°C
Gillingham	15°C	18°C	19°C	18°C	18°C
Gravesend	19°C	21°C	21°C	22°C	21°C
Maidstone	18°C	20°C	22°C	22°C	21°C
Ramsgate	15°C	18°C	19°C	18°C	18°C
Rochester	15°C	18°C	19°C	18°C	18°C

Sevenoaks	16°C	19°C	20°C	21°C	20°C
Sittingbourne	15°C	18°C	19°C	18°C	18°C
Tonbridge	17°C	20°C	21°C	22°C	22°C
Tun Wells	17°C	20°C	21°C	22°C	22°C

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# WIN a VIP pampering shopping day with House of Fraser at Bluewater



**W**IN a VIP pampering shopping day with House of Fraser at Bluewater, Europe's leading retail and leisure destination.

House of Fraser is hosting an exclusive race day themed fashion show in association with Ascot racecourse on Saturday, May 29, in the Guildhall, Bluewater.

Be inspired by the latest catwalk trends and get expert advice with fashion shows and styling workshops at noon, 1.30pm, 3.30pm and 5pm.

Spoil yourself with beauty treats throughout the day and meet experts from the leading beauty brands.

All in all, the ideal way to perfect your look and get ahead in the race day style stakes! To celebrate this fabulous day of fashion and beauty, House of Fraser Bluewater is offering one lucky reader and friend a VIP day with House of Fraser Bluewater. They will each receive front-row seats to the 3.30pm fashion show on May 29, personal style consultation with £100 gift card to spend in store, plus a makeover and beauty treatment.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to House Of Fraser Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

Closing date is May 24, 2010.

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Terms and Conditions: Entrants must be resident in the UK and aged 18 years or over. The prize is one pair of front row tickets to the 3.30pm House of Fraser fashion show on Saturday, May 29, 2010, personal shopping

consultation, £100 gift card, makeover and beauty treatment for the winner and guest.

The personal shopping experience and beauty treatments are by appointment only. The prize is only valid at House of Fraser Bluewater. Prize is non refundable, non transferable and there is no cash alternative.

The winner will be selected from all the valid entries received and notified no later than May 24, 2010.

By participating in this promotion, entrants are deemed to have accepted these rules. The promoter reserves the right to alter these terms and conditions at any time. Promoter: House of Fraser (Stores) Ltd, 27 Baker Street, London W1U 8AH.

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Welcome to more



## MOTORS NEWS



### RAV4 minus x2 equals big savings for buyers

IT is a sign of the times that Toyota has reintroduced a front-wheel drive only option for its 2010 revamp of the RAV4 'soft-roader', available from June 1.

This choice was quietly dropped from the previous generation RAV, but many SUV drivers recognise they rarely need 4x4 and can save money running costs.

The cheaper transmission means that RAV prices can also be more affordable than of late, with the new 2WD 2.2 D-4D XT-R model opening the line-up at £22,410.



### A double mini deal on Citroën's little starlets

FRENCH marque Citroën has launched a three-year/35,000-mile free servicing deal on its C1 city car and new C3 supermini.

The road tax exempt low CO2 and fuel-efficient three/five-door Citroën C1 range sells from £6,995, plus the choice of the free servicing or a £200 contribution towards the first year's insurance.

Meanwhile, the bigger five-door C3 range is available from £8,890 – with £2,000 Citroën Swappage allowance deducted – and that servicing package. Five C3 models also qualify for no road tax.



### Vauxhall produce their 'Rolls Royce' of MPVs

VAUXHALL dealers are counting down to the June 18 launch of a second generation Meriva MPV that will surely outsell its predecessor.

It is as space-efficient as before, but the key to the higher sales will be the convenience of the wide rearward-opening back doors tipped to be so useful to parents needing to get small children to get in and out of the car.

It is a feature the Vauxhall shares with the latest Rolls Royce Ghost – though considerably cheaper from £12,995.



**DEVIL IN DISGUISE:** Subaru's new-look Impreza is slightly more conservative than its predecessor, but still packs a punch with supercar acceleration, going from 0-60 in five seconds

# More cultured Scooby star widens its appeal

SUBARU could say cult status ain't what it's cracked up to be.

Pilloried for allowing its Impreza rally icon to go some 15 years more or less unchanged, it was then slammed by so-called purists for re-inventing the car.

But cult status does not always equal big sales and Subaru realised it had to stop disguising the old car with bling alloys and spoilers and three nose jobs in quick succession.

But 'Scooby-Do' fans were divided in 2007, by the belated 'one-size fits all' five-door hatchback replacement for the old saloon and 'estate' options.

I wonder why; the newcomer is far more versatile yet still offers affordable all-wheel drive – a Subaru 'trademark' – across a wide range.

Our test car was the near ultimate model, the lively £27,590 2.5 WRX STi, with supercar acceleration – 0-60mph in under five seconds – but looking more conservative and less Burberry baseball cap than its predecessor.

This is more where Subaru wants and needs to be, especially after adding a diesel option to its cars.

## ROAD TEST SUBARU IMPREZA

BY STEVE LOADER

### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

The new WRX STi still thrills too; the big bonnet air scoop adds muscular style and the smooth turbocharged 296bhp flat four or boxer engine sounds good.

You can also tweak the centre differential to distribute more power to either axle and play with the engine/throttle response, but that is track day stuff or something to keep geeks happy; this car is such a taut drive and puts its power down so well that it is hard to drive legally and put such features to the test.

It is also better suited to current times with the accessible hatchback boot also surprisingly roomy, despite that extra transmission beneath the floor.

Being a Subaru, the Impreza should also uphold the brand's reputation for indestructible rally-bred engineering.

The six-speed WRX gearshift is not as crisp as it could be, but that might ease in time, and the basic Impreza interior also looks a bit stark in the top end WRX, despite the usual hot badges and high spec – the test model is more than twice the price of the 1.5R entry car.

But that, in turn, speaks highly of cheaper Impreza models where rally-bred all-wheel drive comes at an affordable price.



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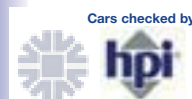
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## Countrywide

#### Maidstone



**Offers Over £105,000**

Viewing essential. Two bedrooms plus refitted bathroom. Open plan lounge, dining area and kitchen. Call to view.

#### Maidstone



**Offers in excess of £105,000**

Two bedroom flat, garage and driveway, woodland views, refitted bathroom. Viewing recommended.

#### Maidstone



**£155,000**

NO CHAIN. Two bedroom ground floor apartment. Master bedroom, en suite shower room, plus further bathroom.

#### Maidstone



**£160,000**

House, significantly improved, new kitchen, new bathroom, new downstairs wc & extension to the rear.

#### Maidstone



**Offers Over £175,000**

Three bedroom family home. Lounge, kitchen/diner, Former outbuilding has been converted into a utility room.

#### Maidstone



**£184,995**

Situated between Penenden Heath and the town centre, it is well positioned for access to local shops and schools.

#### Ditton



**Offers Over £240,000**

Three bedroom family home. It includes hallway, separate reception rooms in lounge and dining room.

#### Maidstone



**£247,500**

Two receptions in lounge and extended dining room, extended kitchen/breakfast room and cloakroom.

#### Maidstone



**Offers Over £315,000**

Hallway, separate receptions in lounge and dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, office and downstairs wc.

#### West Malling



**Offers Over £375,000**

The accommodation includes three receptions in lounge, dining room and garden room plus kitchen, bathroom.





**Maidstone 01622 759891**  
[maidstone@geeringandcolyer.com](mailto:maidstone@geeringandcolyer.com)



**Maidstone** OIEO £170,000  
 We are delighted to offer for sale this three bedroom terraced family home situated within a mile of Maidstone town centre and comprising entrance hall, lounge/diner, fitted kitchen  
 Maidstone Office 01622 759891



**Maidstone** OIEO £225,000  
 NO CHAIN. Three bedroom semi-detached home with a rear garden in excess of 100ft, living room, dining room, conservatory. Downstairs cloakroom, gas central heating, double glazing  
 Maidstone Office 01622 759891



**Rochester** OIEO £150,000  
 The property has been recently re-furnished and is offered for sale with no forward chain. The accommodation comprises entrance porch, lounge, open plan dining room with kitchen, two bedrooms  
 Maidstone Office 01622 759891



**Chart Sutton** £157,000  
 Quaint two bedroom cottage in the heart of the village. Two reception rooms, 12ft kitchen, first floor bathroom, courtyard garden, gas central heating.  
 Maidstone Office 01622 759891



**Maidstone** £169,000  
 An extremely well presented two bedroom home with a re-fitted kitchen and bathroom adjacent to the River Medway (great for walkers) and adjacent to a play area and woodland.  
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**Maidstone** £155,000  
 We are pleased to offer for sale this two bedroom ground floor apartment situated in the secluded and sought after Sandling Park development in Maidstone, the county town of Kent  
 Maidstone Office 01622 759891



**Maidstone** £169,000  
 Two bedroom terrace house situated in popular location. Lounge with feature fireplace, modern fitted kitchen/diner, two double bedrooms, family bathroom, gardens, double glazing, central heating. No chain.  
 Maidstone Office 01622 759891



**Maidstone** £170,000  
 A three bedroom end of terrace home in a popular cul-de-sac location off Willington Street. This home benefits from a re-fitted kitchen with fitted appliances, gas central heating, double glazing.  
 Maidstone Office 01622 759891



**Maidstone** £247,500  
 Extended semi detached four bedroom family home. Open plan modern kitchen with two areas plus dining area leading to second sitting room. Generous size rear garden. Off road parking.  
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**Maidstone** OIEO £375,000  
 A double storey extended four bedroom detached home located opposite Loose Bowling green. The accommodation on the ground floor includes: a 18' kitchen/breakfast room  
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### Weaving

- Lounge with twin bay windows
- Fitted kitchen with breakfast room
- Dining room with a feature bay window
- First floor shower room.
- Conservatory, Garden
- UPVC double glazing
- Garden extends to 97ft in length

**£495,000**

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### Detling

- 4-5 bedroom detached
- Rear garden with kennel block
- Semi rural location.

**£399,995**

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### Maidstone

- Freehold business with cafe and takeaway
- Two bedroom maisonette with terrace
- Outstanding freehold price

**OIRO £280,000**

CALL OUR MAIDSTONE OFFICE 01622 757213



### Weaving

- Three bedroom detached bungalow
- which has been much improved by the present owners

**£259,950**

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### Weaving

- Very well presented three bedroom house
- Situated on popular Grove Green
- Refitted kitchen, carpets

**£229,995**

CALL OUR GROVE GREEN OFFICE 01622 735513



### Bearsted

- Well presented terrace with three bedrooms
- Refitted kitchen, bathroom and cloakroom
- Double glazing

**£199,000**

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### Maidstone

- A well presented three bedroom semi
- Situated in a cul de sac
- UPVC double glazing

**£179,995**

CALL OUR GROVE GREEN OFFICE 01622 735513



### Maidstone

- Three bedroom terrace house
- Lounge, dining room, bathroom
- Gas central heating, double glazing

**OIEO £155,000**

CALL OUR MAIDSTONE OFFICE 01622 757213



### Maidstone

- A rarely available two bedroom flat
- Situated conveniently for access into
- Maidstone town centre

**OIEO £120,000**

CALL OUR MAIDSTONE OFFICE 01622 757213



### Maidstone

- Two bedroom end terrace house
- In lovely condition
- Through lounge/diner, modern kitchen

**£117,500**

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### Maidstone

- Certainly "one to do up"
- An ideal investment property
- No onward chain, interest to investors

**£45,000**

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# AUCTION

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Day One - The Rose Bowl, Southampton - Wednesday, 9th June - 11am.

Day Two - The Hilton Brighton Metropole - Thursday, 10th June - 11am.

Day Three - The Ramada Hotel & Resort, Maidstone - Friday, 11th June - 11am.



**CHARTHAM**  
Link Detached House for Improvement  
Guide: £180-190,000



**RAMSGATE**  
Former Hall Premises with Potential  
Guide: £90-100,000



**CHARING**  
Retail Offices and Maisonette  
Guide: £320-350,000



**DOVER**  
5 Bedroom House & Mission Hall  
Guide: £100-145,000



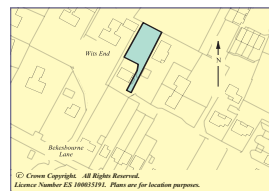
**WILLESBOROUGH ASHFORD**  
Bay Fronted Semi for Improvement  
Guide: £95-105,000



**BEARSTED**  
Bungalow on Good Size Plot  
Guide: £320-350,000



**DEAL**  
35 Lock-Up Garages  
Guide: £170-180,000



**LITTLEBOURNE**  
Plot with Planning For Bungalow  
Guide: £65-70,000



**SMEETH**  
Terraced Cottage for Improvement  
Guide: £110-115,000



**FOLKESTONE**  
Two Bedroom Flat for Investment  
Guide: £70-75,000



**HERNE BAY**  
Bungalow for Improvement  
Guide: £130-140,000



**LEYBOURNE**  
Detached House in One-Third Acre.  
Guide: £330-350,000



**WESTGATE-ON-SEA**  
Substantial Building Arranged as Five Flats for Investment  
Guide: £300-330,000



**FAVERSHAM**  
Vacant Three Bedroom Flat  
Guide: £60-65,000



**HERNE BAY**  
Flat for Improvement  
Guide: £40-50,000



**HAYES, BROMLEY**  
Prime Retail Premises  
Guide: £210-220,000



**SITTINGBOURNE**  
Semi & Building Plot for Det. House  
Total Guide: £130-150,000



**STROOD**  
Former Public House with Potential  
Guide: £170-175,000



**MAIDSTONE**  
Semi as 2 Flats close to Town Centre  
Guide: £175-180,000



**WIGMORE**  
Bungalow for Refurb. with 0.4 Acres  
Guide: £175-180,000



**GILLINGHAM**  
Vacant House for Improvement  
Guide: £75,000 Plus



**MILTON REGIS, SITTINGBOURNE**  
Industrial Buildings & Yard (0.4 Acres)  
Guide: £200-210,000



**BARMING**  
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**BROMLEY**  
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**ORPINGTON**  
Over 16 Acres of Land with Potential  
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Vacant Paddock and Barn  
Guide: £20-30,000



**GILLINGHAM**  
Town Centre Cafe & Sandwich Bar  
Guide: £120-140,000



**STROOD**  
Land with Development Potential  
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**MAIDSTONE £380,000**

A substantial beautifully presented and well maintained five bed period style semi detached property with two reception rooms, kitchen and breakfast area. Walking distance of Loose School.



**HYTHE £450,000**

A well presented 'deceptive' detached chalet bungalow having an attic master bedroom with en-suite and four additional ground floor bedrooms and a double detached garage/workshop.



**COXHEATH £210,000**

A well presented two double bed semi detached bungalow, located in a popular village with lounge overlooking the rear garden, kitchen with attached conservatory. Approx 80ft rear garden.



**MAIDSTONE £175,000**

A larger than average three bedroom End Terrace with thru lounge, dining/ entrance area, conservatory leading off kitchen and pleasant garden.



**MAIDSTONE £149,000**

Larger than average 3 bed town house requiring some modernisation, with lounge/ dining room, two beds on the first floor and a bedroom on the attic floor. Detached garage with access from the rear.



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**Headcorn**




- Four Bedroom Detached Home
- Plot Approaching 1/2 An Acre
- Double Garage & Parking

Enquire Headcorn

**£485,000 - £515,000**

**Larkfield**




- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Cul De Sac Position
- No Onward Chain

Enquire Larkfield

**£172,995**

**Lenham**




- Extended Three Bedroom Semi
- Three Reception Rooms
- Garage & Driveway

Enquire Lenham

**£229,995**

**Maidstone**




- Extended 3 Bed Detached Home
- Double Garage, Parking to Rear
- Conservatory

Enquire Maidstone

**£280,000-£300,000**

**Strood**




- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Off Street Parking

Enquire Snodland

**£149,950**

**Kings Hill**



- 3/4 Bedroom Family Home
- Flexible Living Accommodation
- Vacant Possession

Enquire West Malling

**£360,000**

**Chart Sutton**




- Charming 3/4 Bedroom Cottage
- Approx 1 Acre + 140' Gardens
- Four Reception Rooms

Enquire Headcorn

**£365,000**

**Larkfield**




- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Garage & Driveway
- 70ft Rear Gardens

Enquire Larkfield

**£187,500**

**Ditton**



- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- En Suite Shower Room
- Garage & Parking

Enquire Larkfield

**£199,950**

**Lenham**




- Four Bedroom Detached
- Finishing Works Required
- Close To Schools & Station

Enquire Lenham

**£265,000**

**Allington**




- Extended 3 Bed Semi
- Refitted & Refurbished
- Garage & Parking

Enquire Maidstone

**£249,950**

**Halling**



- Detached Family House
- 5 Bedrooms/Two En Suites
- Garage And Drive

Enquire Snodland

**£320,000**

**Maidstone**




- 3 Bed Semi-Detached Home
- Outskirts of Town Centre
- Gas Central Heating

Enquire Maidstone

**£150,000-£160,000**

**Kate Reed Wood**



- 5 Bedroom Detached Home
- Double Garage & Driveway
- Established Gardens

Enquire West Malling

**£585,000**

**Headcorn**




- Three Bedroom Detached
- Ideal Family Accommodation
- Ground Floor Shower Room

Enquire Headcorn

**£324,995**

**Larkfield**




- 5 Bedroom Detached Home
- Occupying A Generous Plot
- No Onward Chain

Enquire Larkfield

**£304,995**

**Platts Heath**



- Superb Five Bedroom Home
- Approx 1/4 Of An Acre Plot
- Double Garage Block

Enquire Lenham

**£475,000**

**Kings Hill**



- 4/5 Bedroom Executive Property
- Extended With Conservatory
- Popular Phase 1 Location

Enquire West Malling

**£469,995**

**Snodland**




- Purpose Built Flat
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Modern Kitchen & Bathroom

Enquire Snodland

**OIEO £120,000**

**Sandling Lane**



- Two Bed Ground Floor Apartment
- Brick Built Garage
- Vacant Possession

Enquire Maidstone

**£109,950**

**East Malling**




- 4 Bedroom Detached Home
- In Need of Updating
- Established Gardens

Enquire West Malling

**£474,950**

**TO LET**




- MAIDSTONE
- Four bedroom Victorian Semi
- Close to town centre

Enquire Lettings

**£1150 pcm**

**TO LET**




- MAIDSTONE
- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Allocated parking

Enquire Lettings

**£750 pcm**

**TO LET**



- SNODLAND
- Three bedroom Semi Detached
- ORP for 3 cars

Enquire Lettings

**£750 pcm**

**Headcorn**  
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## Madeleine Rose



### Fairbourne Heath £275,000

Pretty two bedroom mid terrace Victorian cottage with good sized accommodation with well proportioned rooms. The character features include latch doors and an open fire in the sitting room. From the dining room access flows through to the country style kitchen. On the first floor there is a spacious landing, two double bedrooms and a modern bathroom with separate shower. The garden is laid mainly to lawn with a substantial timber shed/workshop and private parking area.



### Rural Staplehurst £1,000 pcm

3 Benge Cottage is a detached cottage style house set down a semi rural country lane with garden and double garage. The accommodation comprises a kitchen, utility room, shower room, living room, family room opening to conservatory. Two double bedrooms, two single bedrooms and bathroom. The property benefits from a charming semi rural location yet very convenient for Staplehurst mainline station (approx. 1.5 miles) and local shopping facilities. Well behaved pets considered. LPG gas heating, private drainage. Council Tax Band D current charge £1,473.92.



### Headcorn £975 pcm

Modern and very well presented detached three bedroom house conveniently located for easy access to Headcorn shops and mainline rail station. Presented in very good neutral decor throughout, accommodation provides an entrance lobby, modern fitted kitchen with integrated dishwasher, washing machine, electric oven and gas hob, fridge and freezer. Good size living/dining room with patio doors to sun terrace. Ground floor shower room. Stairs to first floor landing with master bedroom, double bedroom and large single bedroom. Modern bathroom with bath and shower. L-shaped rear garden with sun terrace and lawned areas. Single garage and ORP. Fully double glazed.



### Chart Sutton £765,000

This attractive detached house set in 1 acre is believed to have originally been built around 1830 and has been sympathetically extended over recent years. The ground floor accommodation provides a spacious country style kitchen with glazed doors that open into the garden. Two large reception rooms allow flexible arrangements for both the sitting and dining room and there is also a family room. There are woodburning stoves in the family room and sitting room. On the first floor there is a master bedroom with an ensuite bathroom, three further double bedrooms and a large single as well as a family bathroom.



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**3 AND 4 BED HOUSES, 1 BED APARTMENTS**

<b>Northfleet Close</b> <b>£650.00</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large maisonette on 1st floor</li> <li>• Large living room</li> <li>• Electric heating and cooking</li> <li>• Modern bathroom and kitchen</li> </ul>	<b>Bicknor Road</b> <b>£550.00</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 bedroom apartment</li> <li>• Modern kitchen and bathroom</li> <li>• Open plan living/dining/kitchen area</li> <li>• Private close behind the church</li> </ul>	<b>Pine Lodge</b> <b>£650.00</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 bed apartment in purpose built block on Tonbridge Road</li> <li>• Large apartments, 2 double bedrooms</li> <li>• Kitchen with appliances</li> <li>• Parking available for 1 car</li> </ul>	<b>Kingfisher Meadow</b> <b>£675.00</b>  <b>AVAIL NOW</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 bedroom apartment with river view</li> <li>• 2 double bedrooms, master shower ensuite</li> <li>• Kitchen with appliances</li> <li>• Balcony area and allocated parking</li> </ul>	<b>Kingfisher Meadow</b> <b>£675.00</b>  <b>AVAIL NOW</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 bedroom apartment with river view</li> <li>• 2 double bedrooms, master shower ensuite</li> <li>• Kitchen with appliances</li> <li>• Balcony area and allocated parking</li> </ul>
<b>Orchard Heights</b> <b>£695.00</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 double bed apartment on College Road</li> <li>• master has ensuite shower room</li> <li>• open plan living room</li> <li>• parking for one car</li> </ul>	<b>Laker House</b> <b>£625.00</b>  <b>AVAIL SOON</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 bedroom apartment on Canning street</li> <li>• Near Town centre and Maidstone East Station</li> <li>• Lots of storage space</li> <li>• Allocated parking for one car</li> </ul>	<b>Morton Close</b> <b>£825.00</b>  <b>AVAIL NOW</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 bedroom family house in good location</li> <li>• Situated behind Morrison's</li> <li>• Master bedroom with shower ensuite</li> <li>• Off road parking and garage</li> </ul>	<b>Ashford Road</b> <b>£1295.00</b>  <b>NOW LET</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fabulous 1930 semi detached house in Bearsted</li> <li>• Modern open plan kitchen diner</li> <li>• Large rear garden, garage – rear opening</li> <li>• 2 double bedrooms and 1 single</li> </ul>	<b>Woodlands Road</b> <b>£695.00</b>  <b>AVAIL JULY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 bed terrace house in Ditton</li> <li>• Rear and front garden</li> <li>• Small conservatory</li> <li>• 12 months minimum let on this one</li> </ul>
<b>Church Road</b> <b>£725.00</b>  <b>AVAIL JUNE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 bed semi detached house</li> <li>• In Downswood just near Otham church</li> <li>• Living room, modern Kitchen</li> <li>• Off road parking</li> </ul>	<b>Victoria Orchard</b> <b>£850.00</b>  <b>AVAIL JULY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town house just off queens Road</li> <li>• 3 bedrooms FURNISHED</li> <li>• Open plan living on middle floor</li> <li>• 3rd bedroom on ground floor with ensuite bathroom</li> </ul>	<b>Boughton Monchelsea</b> 	<b>Property of the Week</b> <b>£895.00</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Bedroom family house in semi rural village location</li> <li>• Large rear garden, separate utility room</li> <li>• Large living room, 2 double bedrooms</li> <li>• Brand new kitchen and bathroom</li> <li>• Refurbished throughout and new carpets/flooring</li> </ul>	

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**Senior & General Appointments** 42-44

**Public Notices** 44

**Heath Farm Foster Care, Education & Therapy**  
To support our continued growth and development we are seeking to recruit the following positions:

**TEAM MANAGER (New Post)**  
£38,000 - £45,000 • Company Car Provided  
We are seeking an experienced, highly motivated and forward thinking social worker to manage the social work team towards achieving best outcomes for children and young people through providing high levels of support to carers and effective coordination of Heath Farm services. Social Work Qualification and GSCC Registration essential.

**ADMINISTRATOR (New Post)**  
£13,011  
To support the social work team we are seeking an additional administrator. You will be responsible for the company database and provide back up support to reception. Experienced user of MS Office applications or similar required.

**BENEFITS INCLUDE:**  
To the right candidates we can offer a range of benefits including excellent working conditions, private health care insurance, company pension scheme and access to regular supervision and professional development.

**Closing date for both applications is Monday 7th June 2010**  
**Interviews will take place w/c 14th June 2010**

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Required from September 2010

The Will Adams Centre has been judged as a "good" KS4 pupil referral unit situated in Gillingham by Ofsted in 2009. The centre provides support and educational opportunities to students who have been permanently excluded from mainstream school or who find it difficult to access their educational entitlement. The centre has a vacancy for a qualified teacher of art who will have key responsibility for developing and delivering a range of programs including GCSE to students who are disaffected or who have behavioural/emotional difficulties.

The ideal candidate will be registered with the GTC and will preferably have experience of working with disaffected students or those with behavioural/emotional difficulties.

For more information and to apply, please contact Mrs. J Patterson, Head Teacher, Will Adams Centre, Woodlands Rd, Gillingham, or phone 01634 337111.

Closing date: 21 May 2010

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**The Westlands School**

**Welfare Assistant**  
33.75 hours per week 38 weeks per year  
(8.15am – 12.30pm and 1.00pm – 3.30pm)  
Salary in the range £16,793 - £18,471 pro rata (Equivalent to £12,758 - £14,032)  
Required for September 2010

The Westlands School is seeking to appoint a school welfare assistant with basic first aid training. The key responsibilities will be to assist students with health/medical concerns and to be in charge of the day to day running of the welfare room.

You are welcome to contact the school for a preliminary discussion if desired. Recruitment packs are available from the school or online.  
Closing date, Friday, 21 May 2010

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF  
www.westlands.kent.sch.uk  
Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 47946  
Email: [swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk](mailto:swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk)  
Headteacher: J Whitcombe MA

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For further information please contact Mrs Julie Wilson, Headteacher, Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ

Tel: 0844 477 2525.

Email: [personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk](mailto:personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk)

Closing date: Tuesday, 18 May 2010.

Interviews to be held: 24-27 May 2010.

[www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk](http://www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk)



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Thong Lane, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 4LF

Headteacher: **Miss R. Hughes B.Ed Hons**

Tel: 01474 566552 Fax: 01474 537405

email: [school@thamesview.kent.sch.uk](mailto:school@thamesview.kent.sch.uk)

Website: <http://www.thamesview.kent.sch.uk>

## Headteacher's Personal Assistant (PA) (with Clerk to Governors' Role)

Required for June 2010

37 hours per week for 40 weeks per year (term time plus one week)

Kent Salary Scale 8 (pts 24-28) £23,053.00 to £26,421.00 pa

Pro rata to £19,959.29 to £22,875.30 pa

Plus an allowance of £1600 pa for out of hours meetings

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We wish to appoint an experienced and dedicated administrative member of staff to the permanent position of Headteacher's PA to support her continuing to deliver a high level of leadership at our successful school. You will be the key confidential secretarial and administrative support for the Headteacher, line managing the main Office staff and working alongside the leadership team to help continue to move the school forward. The successful applicant must:

- Have strong interpersonal skills and demonstrate a high level of efficiency.
- Be able to liaise and communicate confidently with all levels of the school and its local community.
- Be confident to work independently, take initiative and multi-task.
- Have a cheerful disposition and demonstrate a positive outlook.
- Be a self-motivated worker who enjoys working in a school with young people.
- Be a positive, professional role model to the admin team.
- Be highly organised and able to manage your time well to meet deadlines when juggling a range of tasks

We are in the current wave of Building Schools for the Future (BSF), so have a brand new school due to open in July 2010 with incredible facilities for indoor and outdoor learning. Our new reception area has been designed to create an open-plan welcoming environment.

After 4 years of innovative improvement, Thamesview has now been awarded 'Good' (2) by Ofsted (in February 2009) for our 'Overall Effectiveness'.

You will be expected to submit an application form, including a 2-page letter outlining your reasons for wanting this position, together with evidence of how you have developed your own skills in readiness for this position. We are looking for the right person in this role, so if you think that you have the skills or the potential to put your stamp on this important role in the school then we want you to apply. If you think this sounds exciting, please telephone: ext 208 or email [k.allen@thamesview.kent.sch.uk](mailto:k.allen@thamesview.kent.sch.uk) for further information. Details are also on our website: [www.thamesview.kent.sch.uk](http://www.thamesview.kent.sch.uk)

**Closing Date - 27th May 2010 at 10.00am**  
**Interviews - w/c 7th June 2010**

The school is very conveniently located - 50 minutes to central London by train; 5 minutes to Ebbsfleet International Station; 15 minutes to the M25. Candidates are very welcome to visit the school. Please call to make arrangements.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students. Appointment to this post will require an Enhanced Disclosure via the Criminal Records Bureau. Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy

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Candidates should have experience in engaging and motivating disadvantaged and excluded groups and demonstrate a desire to pass on their skills and experience to clients. Previous experience of coaching/mentoring with this client group will be a distinct advantage.

Whilst it is beneficial for candidates to be working towards or to hold a recognised qualification in Information Advice and Guidance, teaching certificate, NVQ Assessor Award (A1) and Internal Verifier, Award (V1), Justonestep will provide training and support for the right candidate to achieve these qualifications if necessary.

**Salary:** £16k – £22k pro rata. Negotiable + benefits (Competitive depending on qualifications)

**Location:** Thanet and Kent & Medway

**Closing Date:** 7th June

**Start Date:** End of June

**Initial contract period:** June 2010- July 2012

This is an exciting opportunity to join a forward thinking, innovative and vibrant company and so if you are a committed, hard working, supportive, flexible team member and have the ability to relate to a wide range of people, we would like to hear from you.

To apply for this role please contact **Julie Durant** on **07969 463 809** for an informal chat, or e-mail your CV with covering letter to [julie@justonestep.co.uk](mailto:julie@justonestep.co.uk)



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**Ref: P0333**

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**Medway**

We are looking to recruit an outstanding individual to teach and participate in leading the development of Civil Engineering programmes across the Faculty of Design and Construction. The successful candidates will possess qualities of reliability, have good communication skills and hold a Degree or higher qualification in Civil Engineering or a related specialism. Previous industry experience is essential. The ideal candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

**Closing date: Wednesday 2 June 2010**

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website [www.rbli.co.uk](http://www.rbli.co.uk) for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from [www.midkent.ac.uk](http://www.midkent.ac.uk). Alternatively, please e-mail [job.applications@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:job.applications@midkent.ac.uk). For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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### PUBLIC NOTICES

The Insolvency Act 1986  
**PHILLIPS MAINTENANCE CONTRACTORS LIMITED**  
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Principal Trading Address:

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of creditors of the above-named Company whose principal trading address was situated at Lower Ground Floor, 4 Albion Place, Maidstone, Kent ME14 5DY will be held at Gateway House, Highpoint Business Village, Henwood, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH, on Friday 4th June 2010 at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act, to receive a statement of the Company's affairs, to nominate one or more Insolvency Practitioner/s as Liquidator/s, and to consider the appointment of a Liquidation Committee. If a Liquidation Committee is not formed, the Meeting may be asked to consider other Resolutions, including the basis upon which the Liquidator/s is/are to be remunerated, and for the approval of the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the Meetings of Members and Creditors. Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge a form of Proxy, together, with a full statement of account, at the Registered Office of the Company c/o Gerald Edelman Business Recovery, Gateway House, Highpoint Business Village, Henwood, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH, not later than 12.00 noon on Thursday 3rd June 2010. For the purposes of voting, a Secured Creditor is required, unless he surrenders his security, to lodge at the Registered Office of the Company as above, before the meeting, a statement giving full particulars of his security, the date when it was given, and the value at which it is assessed.

I D Verrill and B Hoffman (IP Nos 8924 and 1593) of Gerald Edelman Business Recovery, Gateway House, Highpoint Business Village, Henwood, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8DH, are qualified to act as Insolvency Practitioners in relation to the Company, and are instructed by the Company to convene the Meeting of Creditors. Messrs Verrill and Hoffman who may be contacted on 01233 666280, or by email on [gerald@edelmans.co.uk](mailto:gerald@edelmans.co.uk) will during the period before the day the meeting is to be held, furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the company's affairs as they may reasonably require. Dated this 30th day of April 2010 By Order of the Board Michael Phillips, Director

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An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Turkey Mill, Ashford Road, Maidstone**  
Applicant: **Thomas Sheldon**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper.

Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey, Head of Registration  
Regulatory Services  
First Floor, Invicta House,  
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX







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## CRICKET

BY TOM HOWARD

## Kent League Premier 2nd XI

The Mote 2nd XI v Hayes 2nd XI

THE Mote kicked off their return to the Kent Cricket League Premier Division with a winning draw at Gore Court on Saturday.

After rain abandoned their opening fixture of the season against Hartley Country Club, Tom Harvey's side were eager to finally play some cricket. The Mote started well and quickly put 257 on the board from their 55 overs.

With a reasonable total to defend, The Mote's bowlers worked hard to limit Gore Court to 206, but were unable to bowl them out to win the game.

The Mote 2nd XI also recorded a winning draw from their clash with Hayes 2nd XI. The Maidstone side batted first and reached 221 from their 50 overs. Peter Bowles starred with the bat with an important knock of 82 and he was aided by Warren Jackson (33) and Ed De Lucy (32).

De Lucy and Alistair Owen-Browne halted Hayes' reply with two quick wickets, but their innings was rescued by an unbeaten 84 from Malcolm Brown. The Mote kept plugging away and managed to grab three more wickets, but Hayes' stubborn batsmen proved to be a stumbling block for the hosts.

Hayes completed their 50 overs with the score on 192 for 5, which was enough to deny The Mote a victory and enough to earn a draw.

# Eager Mote only get winning draw on return



ON STRIKE: The Mote's batsmen (pictured) put together an impressive total but it was only enough for a winning draw

## SCOREBOARD

## The Mote 2nd XI

	Runs
Warren Jackson lbw b Jackson	33
Peter Bowles b Coudrey	82
Ed De Lucy ct & b Johnson	32
Howard Waters retired not out	8
Andrew Barr ct Pratt b Coudrey	21
Alistair Owen-Browne ct Rees b Coudrey	17
Paul Merwood not out	3
Norman Ali b Coudrey	8
Jason White b Duke	3
Nathan Waite not out	2
Arron Dyer did not bat	
Extras (3b 8lb 1nb)	12
Total (7 wickets, 50 overs)	221

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Andy Jackson	15	4	46	1
Alex Duke	10	0	36	1
Aaron Johnson	15	2	80	1
Colin Coudrey	10	0	46	4

## Hayes 2nd XI

	Runs
Mark Whetren ct Owen-Browne b De Lucy	5
Daniel Rees lbw b Owen-Browne	31
Malcolm Brown not out	84
Martin Pratt ct Barr b Owen-Browne	35
Greg Brown b Dyer	0
Mark Trevatt ct Waite b Bowles	16
Colin Coudrey not out	3
Andy Jackson did not bat	
Alex Duke did not bat	
Aaron Johnson did not bat	
Mike Askeew did not bat	
Extras (4b 4lb 8w 2nb)	18
Total (5 wickets, 50 overs)	192

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Arron Dyer	15	4	42	1
Ed De Lucy	10	3	35	1
Peter Bowles	6	0	22	1
Alistair Owen-Browne	15	3	56	2
Nathan Waite	4	0	29	0

## LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

## KENT LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

Addington Village 1st XI v Old Colfeians 1st XI

ADDINGTON Village moved four points clear at the top of Division Three following a 99 run win against Old Colfeians.

Addington quickly raced to 239 from their allotted 50 overs, which left Old Colfeians with a mountain to climb to pull off a successful run chase.

The host's bowlers were just as impressive as their batsmen, with Neil Scott causing Old Colfeians all kinds of problems. He took five wickets as Addington won the game by bowling the visitors out for 140.

## Addington Village 1st XI

	Runs
Neil Miller	ct Thompson b Houston 17
Ray Van Schoor	b Gale 4
Joe Pigott	ct b Khan 51
Ben Buet	b Khan 65
Neil Scott	st Harmer b Khan 44
Duncan Brown	ct Kelleher b Shafique 5
Will Jeffery	run out Kelleher 16
Tom Nissen	b Khan 2
James Fullagar	not out 2
Dan Walton	not out 3
Keith Stone	did not bat 1
Extras	(14b 14lb 2w) 30
Total	(8 wickets; 50 overs) 239

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Tom Gale	11	0	44	1
Jack Kelleher	7	1	17	0
Irfan Begy	11	2	42	0
Travis Houston	6	0	38	1
Yavar Khan	12	0	48	4
Asim Shafique	3	0	22	1

## Old Colfeians 1st XI

		Runs
Yavar Khan	ct Nissen b Scott	28
Doug Gratton	lbw b Walton	5
Richard Harmer	ct Van Schoor b Scott	31
Mark Quilter	ct Miller b Scott	0
Travis Houston	b Scott	0
Irfan Begy	run out	0
Chris Thompson	not out	29
Christopher Tarrant	b Scott	2
Tom Gale	ct Fullagar b Brown	11
Asim Shafique	ct Nissen b Buet	8
Jack Kelleher	ct Miller b Brown	9
Extras	(9b 7lb 1w)	17
Total	(all out, 44 overs)	140

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Joe Pigott	4	0	22	0
Dan Walton	7	1	18	1
Neil Scott	9	3	26	5
Duncan Brown	12	3	30	2
Keith Stone	4	0	16	0
Tom Nissen	4	1	8	0
Ben Buet	4	3	4	1

## KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FIVE

Bapchild 1st XI v Offham 1st XI

OFFHAM secured their first win of the season in style with a convincing eight-wicket victory at Bapchild.

An inspired bowling attack damaged Bapchild's innings early on leaving them 3 for 3 at one stage, before they recovered to post 140 from their 50 overs.

With only 140 to beat, Offham made a steady start to the run chase with Tom Gittings (21) and Kraig Corke (34). However, runs from the unbeaten pair of Ben Gittings (35) and Watt (46) clinched the win in the 31st over.

## Bapchild 1st XI

		Runs
Alex Ward	ct A Kent b Watt	1
Ricky Dale	b Watt	0
Andries Hattingh	lbw b Cox	0
Alan Hampton	b A Kent	26
Adam Larking	lbw b Stuart	20
John Heatley	b Watt	17
Luke MacKay	not out	44
Lee Cogger	ct Cox b Watt	11
Dave Wassell	b Cox	2
Matthew Roche	b Watt	1
Joshua Hunt	not out	1
Extras	( )	17
Total	(9 wickets, 50 overs)	140

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Leonard Watt	15	3	49	5
Andy Cox	12	6	15	2
Andrew Stuart	35	0	16	1
Ben Regan	14	4	31	0
Adam Kent	5.1	0	23	1

## Offham CC - 1st XI

		Runs
Tom Gittings	b Hampton	21
Kraig Corke	ct Hunt b Roche	34
Ben Gittings	not out	35
Leonard Watt	not out	46
Lawrence Bell	did not bat	
Adam Kent	did not bat	
Tom Boucher	did not bat	
Andrew Stuart	did not bat	
Daniel Kent	did not bat	
Ben Regan	did not bat	
Andy Cox	did not bat	
Extras	()	6
Total	(2 wickets, 30.5 overs)	142

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Adam Larking	6	2	14	0
Joshua Hunt	35	0	25	0
Alex Ward	2	0	18	0
Alan Hampton	8	2	21	1
Matthew Roche	7	1	29	1
Andries Hattingh	2	0	16	0
Ricky Dale	2	0	17	0

## KENT REGIONAL CRICKET LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP EAST

Old Williamsonsians 1st XI v Yalding 1st XI

LUKE Butcher's knock of 42 proved crucial as Old Williamsonsians condemned Yalding to a 39 run defeat.

Old Williamsonsians looked in danger of a heavy defeat, as they were limited to 96, but an inspired performance with the ball ended Yalding's hopes.

Yalding's batsmen were unable to settle at the crease in their reply and were dismissed for just 57 after 25 overs. Phil Patterson was the pick of the bowlers with figures of 5 for 25.

## Old Williamsonsians 1st XI

		Runs
<b>Luke Butcher</b>	b Waseem	42
<b>Daniel Buckle</b>	lbw b Haider	5
<b>Sean Holbrook</b>	b Haider	7
<b>Jonathan Child</b>	b Shepherd	1
<b>David Fordham</b>	lbw b Robinson	7
<b>Ashley Pentecost</b>	b Shepherd	0
<b>Tom Markham</b>	lbw b Shepherd	0
<b>Peter Meyers</b>	ct Robinson b Shepherd	7
<b>Jake Butcher</b>	not out	0
<b>Jimmy Masters</b>	b Shepherd	4
<b>Phil Patterson</b>	ct Card b Haider	1
<b>Extras</b>	(5b 4lb 12w 1nb)	22
<b>Total</b>	(all out, 35 overs)	96

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
James Fenn	7	2	23	0
Jumshad Haider	8.2	0	12	3
Anthony Shepherd	9	2	25	5
Andrew Robinson	6	1	26	1
Mohammad Waseem	4	3	1	1

## Yalding 1st XI

		Runs
Matthew Thomas	ct Buckle b Patterson	0
Graham Hutchins	ct Holbrook b Patterson	9
Marty Hollis	ct Pentecost b Masters	6
Joel Shopland	b Patterson	6
Mohammad Waseem	b Butcher	5
James Fenn	lbw b Butcher	3
Jumshad Haider	b Patterson	2
Andrew Robinson	b Butcher	0
Anthony Shepherd	ct Holbrook b Patterson	12
Joshua Brooks	b Child	1
Jonathan Card	not out	0
Extras	(1b 2lb 8w 2nb)	13
Total	(all out, 25 overs)	57

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Phil Patterson	12	5	25	5
Jimmy Masters	5	1	21	1
Luke Butcher	7	3	8	3
Jonathan Child	0.2	0	0	1

## KENT REGIONAL CRICKET LEAGUE DIVISION 1A CENTRAL

Borstal 1st XI v Leeds &amp; Broomfield 1st XI

A DREADFUL batting performance saw Borstal slump to a 65-run defeat against Leeds & Broomfield.

After winning the toss, Borstal's bowlers did well to remove the Leeds top order cheaply, with Adam Mahomed and Mark Stevens taking two wickets apiece. The visitors were rescued by runs in the lower order, plus 30 in extras, which took them up to 161.

It should not have posed too many problems, but instead the Borstal batsmen struggled. Only four batsmen reached double figures, while the top scorer was the extras column with 22.

## Leeds &amp; Broomfield 1st XI

		Runs
Aaron Bailey	b Mahomed	10
Martin McCague	ct Francis b Bahia	29
John Hartshorn	ct Tingley b Mahomed	2
Geoff Atkinson	b Stevens	3
Max Aitken	ct Hussain b Kumar	5
Geoff Hunt	lbw b Stevens	9
Adrian Samson	ct Connolly b Hussain	28
Richard Turner	b Kumar	11
Neil Dibben	st Tippet b Hussain	33
Daren Hunt	not out	1
James Ingarfield	run out (Kumar)	0
Extras		30
Total	( all out, 44.2 overs)	161

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Adam Mahomed	11	2	32	2
Tarviner Bahia	8	1	30	1
Satish Kumar	12	3	37	2
Mark Stevens	7	3	20	2
Arshad Hussain	6.4	0	24	2

## Borstal 1st XI

		Runs
Simon Harding	lbw b Samson	13
Dave Tingley	ct Aitken b Hunt	13
Arshad Hussain	run out (Hunt)	2
Alex Francis	ct Atkinson b Hunt	3
Nick West	st Hunt b Samson	17
Satish Kumar	b Aitken	15
Sam Connolly	ct Hunt b Samson	4
Fred Tippet	b Aitken	3
Tarviner Bahia	b Samson	0
Mark Stevens	b Aitken	0
Adam Mahomed	not out	4
Extras		22
Total	(all out 32.1 overs)	96

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Neil Dibben	7	3	10	0
Geoff Hunt	11	5	16	2
Richard Turner	6	1	23	0
Adrian Samson	5	2	16	4
Max Aitken	3.1	1	8	3



# Stones boss hoping to keep squad despite cuts

## FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD

MAIDSTONE United manager Peter Nott is confident the majority of his squad will commit their futures to the club for next season.

The Stones boss was handed a reduced budget compared to last season's and has been frantically talking to his squad about his plans for the next campaign.

Nott is pleased with the progress made so far but has confirmed striker Lyndon Rowland and Roland Edge have left the club. He has also put contracted striker Danny Hockton on the transfer list in a bid to release some funds.

The majority of the squad are expected to stay at the club for next season, but Nott is still waiting to hear if Nathan Paul, the Stones' longest serving squad member, will be at Maidstone next season. The 24-year-old joined the club in 2005 and has been an integral part of the Stones defence.

Nott said: "We've spoken to almost everybody and there is only really one player who we haven't had a commitment from. I'm hopeful that the majority will stay for next season and we have already made some progress on three new signings."

"Nathan is probably the biggest name we haven't had a commitment from. We know there is some interest in him from other clubs



Picture: COLIN READ



Picture: STEVE TERRELL

**HOPEFUL:** Maidstone United boss Peter Nott (left) is happy with the progress made since the end of the season but hopes defender Nathan Paul (right) will stay on with the side for the upcoming season

so we will have to wait on that. Danny is on contract with us but the reason to put him on the transfer list is purely down to financial issues."

Elsewhere at the club, chairman Paul Bowden-Brown was set for further discussions yesterday with investor Oliver Ash.

The pair, along with general manager Bill Williams and director Richard Bowden-Brown, held a meeting via a conference call

two weeks ago to discuss the club's future and how to repay Ash's £100,000 investment. Various ideas have been discussed regarding the Stones' future, but nothing has been agreed yet.

However, the Stones chairman confirmed that the leveling of the proposed new ground site at James Whatman Way by contractors Warnings will be completed by the end of the month.

## SUPERBIKES



Picture: IAN KIRK

**READY:** Steve Mercer on board his new bike for the famous Isle of Man TT later this month

## New sponsor sends Steve to Manx TT

STEVE Mercer will be sponsored by GForce, the Bearsted-based web management company, for the 2010 National and International motor cycle road race series.

The 27-year-old from Maidstone has enjoyed a fine start to the 2010 season and last month, at the Oliver's Mount circuit in North Yorkshire, qualified in pole position and was more than a second faster than the second placed rider.

The biggest outing of the season will be the Manx TT, held between May 29 and June 12. Last year, Mercer wowed the crowds by posting an average lap speed of 121mph along the 37.73-mile course.

Mercer said: "Being sponsored by GForce is a fantastic opportunity for me and my team. It will allow us to be competitive at the highest level against the best riders in the world."

"The Isle-of-Man TT is a massive challenge so having the support of a successful local company is priceless."

# Smalling thanks Nott

## FOOTBALL

AS he prepares for life among Manchester United's superstars following his £10 million move from Fulham to Old Trafford, Medway youngster Chris Smalling has not forgotten his Kent roots.

Though still in his formative years, the 20-year-old central defender, who has achieved more than the average footballer in an entire career, showed a refreshing down-to-earth humility, paying tribute to those who had helped him along the way.

Greenwich-born Smalling, who grew

up in Chatham and played for Maidstone United, hopes his meteoric rise can inspire promising young footballers in the county.

He said: "I've spoken to a few of the Maidstone players my age, who have broken into the first team, and the manager Peter Nott."

"He was my coach when I first joined Maidstone. He's a great coach and I owe him a lot."

"I hope I can be a role model for kids out there. Hopefully I can show them that if you enjoy your football and work hard there is always a chance you can make it."

Picture: STEVE TERRELL



**METEORIC RISE:** Chris Smalling is grateful for the help of Maidstone United manager Peter Nott as he prepares for life at Manchester United

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